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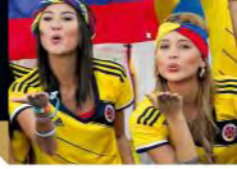

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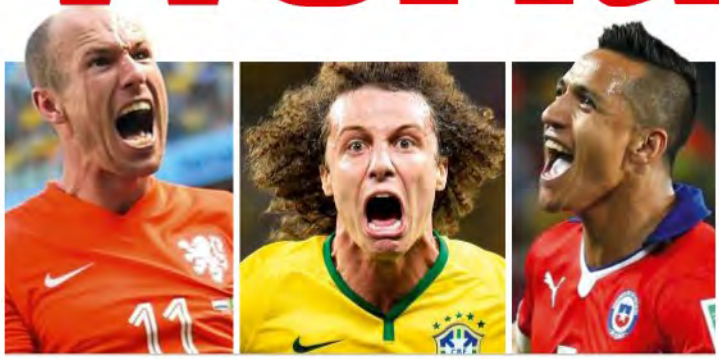

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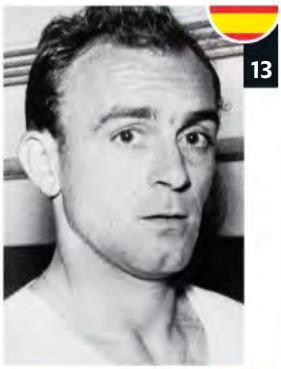

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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

RIO DE JANEIRO...Germany lift the 2014 World Cup in the Maracana

SAO PAULO...a priest and nuns from the enclosed monastery of Imaculada Conceicao in Piratininga, outside Sao Paulo, celebrate a goal in Brazil's win over Colombia

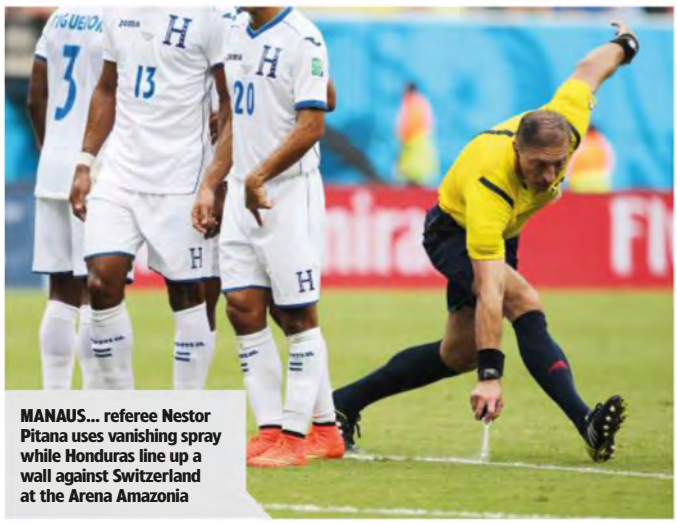
FORTALEZA...Brazil's Neymar is carried off following the challenge by Juan Zuniga of Colombia in the quarter-finals

RIO DE JANEIRO...young boys play football in the Tavares Bastos favela

RIO DE JANEIRO...French wives Mazda Magui, Ludivine Sagna and Sandra Evra take a 'selfie' during the Group E match against Ecuador

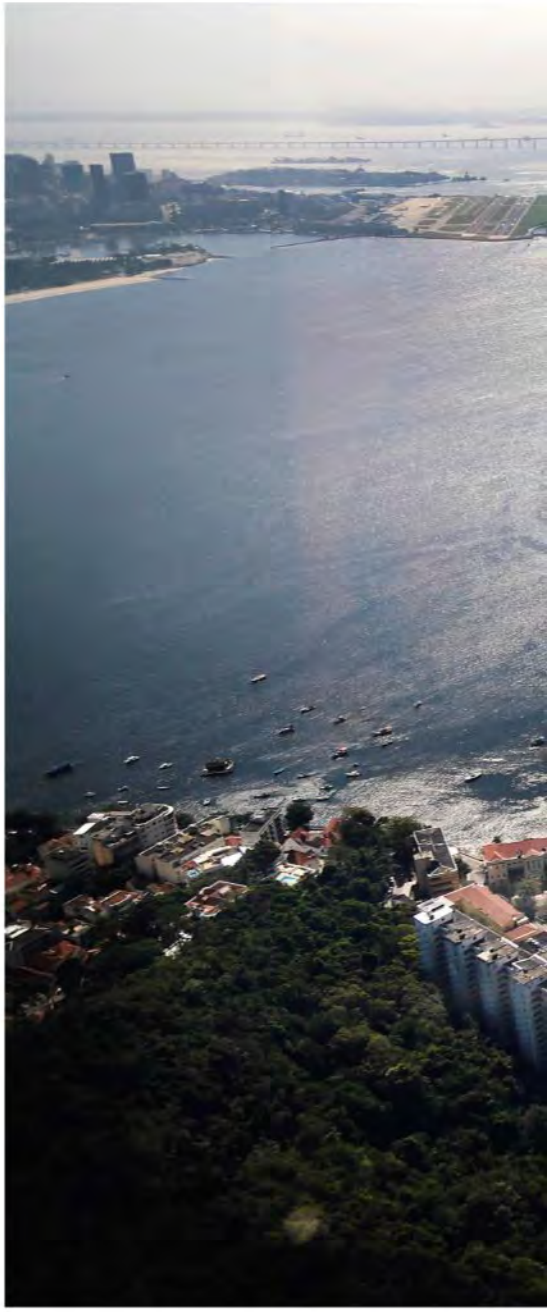
NATAL...a Japanese fan at the Estadio das Dunas ahead of the group match against Greece

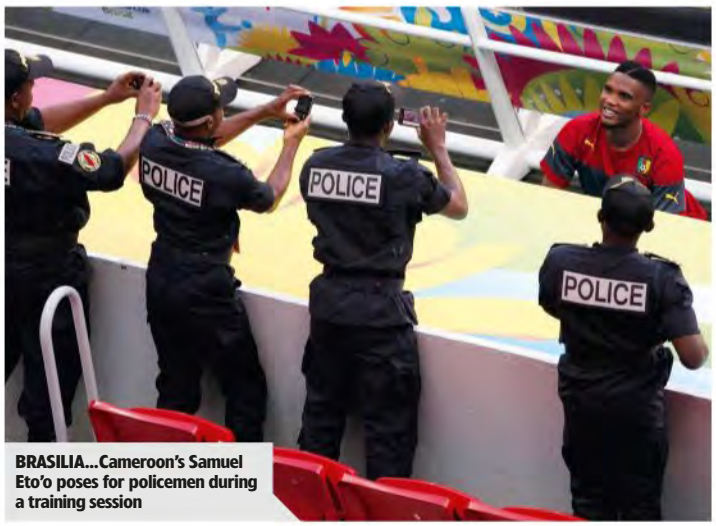
BRASILIA...a fan's tears wipe away the paint on her face as she watches the host nation being thrashed by Germany in Belo Horizonte



MANAUS... referee Nestor Pitana uses vanishing spray while Honduras line up a wall against Switzerland at the Arena Amazonia

BRASILIA...Olivier Giroud (no9) and Paul Pogba lie on the ground as France and Nigeria players keep an eye on the ball during their round-of-16 game





BRASILIA...Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o poses for policemen during a training session

MANAUS...a shopkeeper watches Holland against Spain on television in his small shop near the Arena Aamazonia

RIO DE JANEIRO...England's training camp at the Urca military base near Copacabana beach

SALVADOR...a boy and other locals tune into the Brazil v Mexico game

MANAUS...fans on a flight to Sao Paulo react as Neymar scores against Cameroon

FORTALEZA...Brazil defender David Luiz celebrates after scoring against Colombia in the quarter-final win at the Castelao Stadium

RIO DE JANEIRO...a young boy wearing a Neymar Brazil shirt flies a kite from a rooftop above the city

SAO PAULO...police deal with a protestor prior to the opening match of the tournament

BELO HORIZONTE...an Argentina fan cooks at his campsite in Vespasiano, near Belo Horizonte, prior to his team's group game against Iran

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

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FROM THE EDITOR

Debate will rage over whether Brazil 2014 was the best World Cup ever. Comparisons are always difficult, but it was the best of the 32-team era. Certainly it was the most complete World Cup that I have attended. Past World Cups have featured great individuals, stories and teams, but Brazil 2014 enjoyed a multitude of narratives.

From the start there were upsets and underdogs, goals and attacking football. There were heroes like Mario Gotze, and villains like Luis Suarez and Juan Zuniga. New stars emerged (James Rodriguez) while there were established names who lived up to their billing (Neymar) and others that did not (Cristiano Ronaldo).

> Brazil's semi-final meltdown will be analysed for years to come, but ultimately it came down to their failure to innovate

Brazil's semi-final meltdown will be analysed for years to come, but ultimately it came down to their failure to innovate – unlike Germany whose Final victory was well deserved. It was fitting that the most complete and progressive team won. Ultimately, a World Cup is remembered for its football and Gotze's goal was worthy of winning any tournament.

We have tried to do justice to Brazil 2014 over the course of this edition of the magazine. A complete record of a wonderful World Cup.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

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3 Holders Spain crash out in group stage ..... page 30
4 Germany's Miroslav Klose set a new tournament record with his 16th World Cup goal ..... page 44
5 FIFA hit by ticketing scandal ..... page 12
6 Barcelona sign Luis Suarez despite four-month ban ..... page 20
7 Real Madrid legend Alfredo Di Stefano passes away ..... page 13
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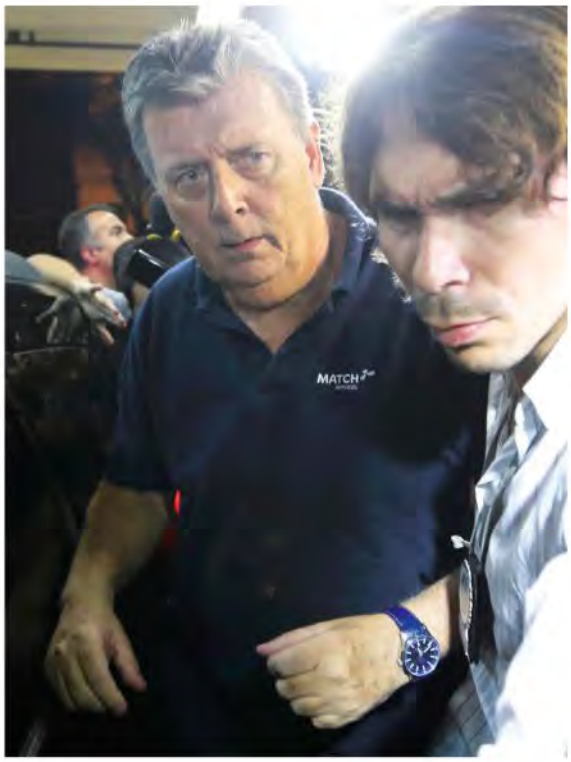
10 Nigeria captain Joseph Yobo retires from international football after winning his 100th cap ..... page 92

BRAZIL



On the run...Match executive Ray Whelan (left)

FIFA caught up in World Cup ticketing scandal

Police in Rio de Janeiro labelled Ray Whelan, the UK boss of FIFA's official hospitality company, a "fugitive" after he fled his hotel at Copacabana Beach via the back door.

Whelan was one of 11 people arrested and questioned as part of an investigation into World Cup ticket touting. Whelan was suspected of illegally acquiring and selling VIP and hospitality tickets at four World Cup tournaments.

The arrests prompted several hospitality companies to have their tickets suspended. Humberto Grondona, Argentina's youth coach and son of AFA supremo Julio Grondona, had to explain himself after one of his tickets turned up in the wrong hands.

Jaime and Enrique Byrom, the Mexican brothers whose Match companies have been running World Cup hospitality and ticketing operations for two decades on behalf of FIFA, insisted the police were confused about the difference between tickets for fans and tickets within hospitality packages.

Phone calls by Whelan in Brazil, in which he talked about cash sales of Final tickets for $25,000 (£14,600) were taped by the police, who leaked a number of stories to the media.

The scandal turned a spotlight on the cosy relationship between FIFA and the relevant companies, Match Services and Match Hospitality. Both companies issued statements on each other's behalf that added to the confusion. Shareholders in Match include Swiss sports marketing firm Infront, whose president is Philippe Blatter, nephew of the FIFA president.

"He was a trailblazer and, most of all, he was a legend of the game. God rest his soul"

Pele on Di Stefano

OBITUARY: ALFREDO DI STEFANO (1926-2014)

Di Stefano, the greatest?

Alfredo Di Stefano remains the greatest footballer of all time for many observers. Not only was he supremely talented as a centre-forward who viewed the entire pitch as his domain, but his significance to the modern game is without parallel.

Coincidentally, Santiago Bernabeu – as president, the other great architect of Real Madrid – also died while a World Cup was being played out in South America, in his case in Argentina in 1978.

Di Stefano, born in Barracas, Buenos Aires, on July 4, 1926, played international football for his native Argentina and later for Spain. He was a member of Spain's squad at the 1962 World Cup in Chile but did not appear because of sciatica. Reports that he also represented Colombia are erroneous – he played for a Colombian league XI while with Millonarios of Bogota in the early 1950s but not for the national side.

Di Stefano began his career with his father's old club, River Plate, though his boyhood hero was Independiente's Paraguayan centre-forward Arsenio Erico. River sent him on loan to Huracan but then recalled him after Adolfo Pedernera, who was leader of the legendary "*Maquina*" [machine] forward line, decamped to Colombia.

River fans gave Di Stefano the "*Saeta Rubia*" [blond arrow] nickname which stayed with him throughout his playing days. He scored 53 goals in 73 games for River up until the infamous players' strike in Argentina in 1950.

The clubs decided to break the strike and force the players back into action by fulfilling fixtures with the youth teams. However, clubs in a new breakaway Colombian professional league took advantage of their independence from FIFA to lure the players away. Pedernera came back to persuade Di Stefano and a host of other top Argentinian players to join him in a short-lived El Dorado.

FIFA eventually brokered a peace deal and Millonarios toured Europe to capitalise financially on their fame. It was when they played in a tournament in Madrid to mark Real's 50th anniversary that Bernabeu decided Di Stefano was the player of his dreams and ambitions.

But Madrid had competition from Barcelona, who had already snatched the great Hungarian forward Laszlo Kubala from their grasp. Bernabeu resolved not to be beaten again, so while Barcelona bought Di Stefano from his original club River Plate, Madrid bought him from Millonarios.

Commander... Di Stefano was the personification of "total football"

The Spanish sports ministry ruled that he should play two alternate seasons for each club. After a modest first month, Barcelona told Madrid they were welcome to him in return for the $27,000 the Catalans had paid River. With the hindsight of more than 60 years, it can be argued that the day he arrived – September 23, 1953 – was the day that changed football.

Two years later, the European Champions Cup was launched; not at the prompting of a fledgling and uninterested UEFA but the French newspaper *L'Equipe*. The recent advent of floodlighting and the jet engine had opened up a revolutionary potential for international midweek club football.

Madrid won the European Cup for the first five years in a row with a dramatic style and swagger every club and player dreamed of emulating. Di Stefano scored in every one of those Finals, culminating in the legendary 7-3 demolition of Eintracht Frankfurt at Hampden Park, Glasgow, when both he and Ferenc Puskas scored hat-tricks.

No other player so effectively combined individual expertise with an all-embracing ability to organise a team to play to his command. He was "total football" personified long before the term had been invented.

The Di Stefano-fired success of Madrid and the European Cup – the only label it ever needed – fuelled the mixture which inspired Horst Dassler and Joao Havelange to turn the World Cup into a cash machine and set an example greedily pursued by every other sport.

Di Stefano, with Madrid, won five European Cups, eight Spanish league titles, one Spanish Cup, one World Club Cup and was five times Spain's top scorer. He was European Footballer of the Year in 1957 and 1959, and held – for long years after his retirement – the record of 49 European Cup goals.

Di Stefano played for the Rest of the World against England in the Football Association's centenary match in 1963 and received a host of global civil and sporting awards.

Ultimately, in 2000, he was appointed honorary president of Real Madrid, a role he held with pride until his death in July aged 88 following a cardiac arrest in Madrid.

Keir Radnedge

Supreme...scoring the first of his three goals in Real Madrid's epic 7-3 European Cup Final triumph over Eintracht Frankfurt in 1960

"In the end, it could have been six, seven or eight"

Holland's Robin Van Persie on the thrashing of Spain

GOALS we'd like to see again

1 ROBIN VAN PERSIE
Holland v Spain
Flying header from a pin-point cross from the left by Daley Blind.

2 LIONEL MESSI
Argentina v Bosnia-Herzegovina
After exchanging passes with Gonzalo Higuain, he dribbled past the Bosnian defence and coolly slotted home.

3 TIM CAHILL
Australia v Holland
Stunning left-foot volley that went in off the underside of the crossbar.

4 EDUARDO VARGAS
Chile v Spain
A well worked passing move neatly finished off by the Chilean.

5 JERMAINE JONES
USA v Portugal
Received the ball outside the penalty area from a corner and drilled a low shot into the corner.

6 LUIS SUAREZ
Uruguay v England
Collected a chipped pass from Edinson Cavani and headed past Joe Hart for his first goal.

7 XHERDAN SHAQIRI
Switzerland v Honduras
Cut in off the right flank and took on a couple of defenders before unleashing a left-foot shot into the top corner for the first goal of a hat-trick.

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/40nX7r

8 JAMES RODRIGUEZ
Colombia v Uruguay
Glanced over his shoulder to check the position of Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera before controlling a headed pass on his chest, turning through 180 degrees and hitting a first-time volley into the roof of the net.

9 ANGEL DI MARIA
Argentina v Switzerland
Side-foot shot into the corner after a dynamic run by Lionel Messi.

10 MARIO GOTZE
Germany v Argentina
A brilliant chest and volley to win the World Cup.

"The referee saw the bite mark too, but he did nothing about it"

Giorgio Chiellini on being bitten by Luis Suarez

HEROES & VILLAINS

Unfancied...Pinto's plucky Costa Rica defied the odds

JORGE LUIS PINTO

The Costa Rica coach led his team to wins against Uruguay and Italy, to top their group, and then against Greece in the second round, before losing to Holland on penalties in the quarter-finals.

MIROSLAV KLOSE

Broke Ronaldo's scoring record with his 16th World Cup goal, in Germany's 7-1 semi-final thrashing of Brazil.

Historic...Klose celebrates his record-breaking goal

Busy...Howard was in superb form against Belgium

TIM HOWARD

The USA goalkeeper made a World Cup record 15 saves in one game during the quarter-final defeat by Belgium.

Specialist...Krul came off the bench for penalties

TIM KRUL

Holland's substitute keeper replaced Jasper Cillessen for the penalty shoot-out against Costa Rica in the quarter-finals and saved two spot-kicks to see the Dutch into the last four.

SEREY DIE

The Ivory Coast midfielder played for his country in their group game against Colombia despite learning of his father's death just two hours before kick-off.

LUIS SUAREZ

The Uruguayan was banned by FIFA for four months and nine international matches after he bit Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini on the shoulder.

SULLEY MUNTARI & KEVIN-PRINCE BOATENG

Expelled by Ghana and "suspended indefinitely" after Boateng allegedly insulted coach Kwesi Appiah and Muntari allegedly "attacked an executive committee member".

Fall guy...Robben admitted to diving against Mexico

ARJEN ROBBEN

The Holland forward admitted that he dived on a couple of occasions in an attempt to win a penalty against Mexico.

RODRIGO PAIVA

Brazil's press officer was suspended by FIFA after allegedly throwing a punch at Chile's Mauricio Pinilla at half-time of the second round match between the two nations.

BENOIT ASSOU-EKOTTO

The Cameroon defender headbutted team-mate Benjamin Moukandjo in injury time during their 4-0 loss to Croatia.

JUAN ZUNIGA

The Colombian's foul put Brazil's Neymar out of action and left the tournament without its most effective player for the semi-finals onwards.

Blow...Zuniga's challenge put Neymar out of action

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

World Cup 2014: positive developments on all fronts

Brazil is the legendary home of *O Jogo Bonito*, the Beautiful Game. Appropriately, and by all agreed assessments – statistical, evidential and subjective – this 2014 World Cup has been the most entertaining for a generation.

The home of carnival delivered carnival football with a succession of dramatic twists and turns, even though the do-or-die tension of the knockout stage pulled down the fear-factor curtain on the grand theatre.

The group stage produced the highest goals-per-game ratio (2.83) since the 1970 finals. And there are reasons; this is not an accident of sporting history or a Brazilian-inspired quirk of competition.

A first factor is money. Sport's financial explosion – on a model devised by FIFA's president Joao Havelange and Adidas heir Horst Dassler in the late 1970s – has proved more beneficial to football than any other sport. From the World Cup down to the domestic leagues, the money men of television and the corporate world have sought to jump on the bandwagon in pursuit of ratings and sales volume.

Some of that money has found its way into the wrong pockets, but millions have been spent on creating academies across the globe, and young players have been coached, educated and directed up through the game.

The collapse of the Iron Curtain and the border-opening revolution of the Bosman judgment in the 1990s meant that all the finest players in the world could mingle within European football. African nations have certainly benefited from that access to Champions League knowhow. The evidence was there in Brazil, although off the pitch it is, sadly another story.

All the teams on show in Brazil brought a level of fitness, focus, technique and hence increased tactical variation to the party beyond anything I have witnessed at 12 previous World Cups, going back to 1966.

The drama of Brazil 2014 was achieved by an approach that Holland coach Louis Van Gaal likes to describe as "holistic". There was no one individual factor, no single magic trick. What the world saw was the product of hard work across the full breadth of football.

The rapid development in fitness has provided the platform for a tactical evolution.

Extraordinary...Thomas Muller scores during Germany's remarkable 7-1 thrashing of hosts Brazil

The days of the "WM" formation are lost in history. Brazil were revolutionary with 4-2-4 and then 4-3-3 in 1958 and 1962. England moved on with 4-4-2 in 1966.

Those systems worked because they encouraged the optimum use of players at the fitness level of the day. Now the game has moved on. In the mid-1980s, coaches found that it was possible to overwhelm opponents by flooding midfield with five players. Later Spain dominated midfield with permanent possession of the ball. In one critic's assessment, they "passed the opposition to death". But now their *tiki-taka*, too, is history.

Fitness progression meant that many teams in Brazil played five men at the back. But, by playing a high line, that quintet can also create a seven- or eight-man midfield when in control of the ball and on the attack.

> The World Cup has regained a sporting, competitive and popular pre-eminence

So this is the equation: financial development + coaching development + physical development + tactical development = World Cup 2014.

The World Cup has regained a sporting, competitive and popular pre-eminence which had come under increasing threat from the annual intensity of the Champions League. It also accrued a record take-up on social media, record attendances at the fan fests and record ticket sales. Some challenge for Vladimir Putin's Russia in 2018.

BLATTER PLOTS HIS FUTURE

As the dust settles on Brazil 2014, the pace of Sepp Blatter's conversion to the benefits of technology is accelerating. FIFA's president now wants a debate on whether managers should have the right to two video referee challenges per game.

For almost all of his 39 years in FIFA, Blatter ferociously opposed technological assistance for referees. His "Road to Damascus" was the road to Bloemfontein and Frank Lampard's phantom goal against Germany. However, Blatter always insisted that technology should only extend to goal-line fact and not to "judgment" calls such as fouls or offsides.

In his closing remarks at the FIFA Congress in Sao Paulo, Blatter told delegates: "I am developing an idea, speaking about technology: we could do something more on the field of play. Why don't we give managers the possibility of two challenges for refereeing decisions during a match, and he could ask for a review by television?

"We are not going to apply this tomorrow but it is good to put the game and the control of the game in question."

This is not the only issue on which Blatter is changing his mind on major issues. Three years ago he said he would not run for a fifth term of office; now he has made it clear he is preparing to do precisely that.

"This is a good idea; it is feasible," he said... speaking about video assistance, that is. **WS**

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Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Belo Horizonte: city of shocks

Since 1950, it seemed inconceivable that there could ever be a surprise as great as that when a job lot of part-time USA footballers beat an England team studded with stars 1-0 in Belo Horizonte, on what was a bumpy pitch in a ramshackle stadium. But in that same city, albeit in a huge imposing arena, came a surprise as great, if not greater, as Germany thrashed Brazil 7-1.

How good then were Germany? How bad were Brazil? Predictably enough, Brazil's "Big Phil" Scolari said it was all his fault, as managers do. I'd suggest that a good deal of it was his fault, though the absence in defence of Thiago Silva – would he have let David Luiz run riot? – and Neymar in attack was crucial.

When the smoke clears, I think it will be realised that for all the drama, all the periodic surprises, this was not one of the great World Cups.

Were it not for the decisive presence of Lionel Messi, you might say that once Neymar was so shamefully kneed out of action it almost became a question of Hamlet without the Prince.

Not that he was always effective. In the hard-won match against Chile, when Brazil prevailed only on penalties, Neymar sunk out of sight in the second half. But, overall, he had been extremely important to a team which played virtually without a centre-forward. Poor, pedestrian Fred.

What happened to the great Brazilian tradition of centre-forwards?

Go back to the 1938 World Cup in France and there was little Leonidas, with his famous bicycle kick, who was top scorer in that tournament. In 1950, there was Ademir at the centre of a devastating attacking trio and the scorer of eight goals. When Brazil won the World Cup in Sweden in 1958 their attack, as again in 1962, was led by the incisive and quick Vava, with the young Jose Altafini a precocious alternative. More recently there was the dynamic Romario, followed by the powerful, formidable Ronaldo.

If Brazil relied so heavily on Neymar, so Argentina were even more deeply indebted to Messi. To those who say

> Scolari said Brazil's failure was all his fault, as managers do. I'd suggest a good deal of it was...

that he wasn't as influential as in his best days at Barcelona, it might be replied that the true comparison should be with the previous World Cup in South Africa when, at the evident dictates of Diego Maradona – as chaotic a coach as he was supreme a player – he was largely exiled to the left wing.

In Brazil this time, this gloriously elusive player scored and set up vital goals. It was his remarkable goal, drifting wide of a packed Iran defence as late as the 90th minute, which saved his team from embarrassment. It was his exquisite pass which presented Angel Di Maria with his 118th-minute winner against Switzerland.

What would a largely modest Argentina team have been without him?

Poor...Fred (centre) was virtually anonymous during the tournament, while Brazil failed to overcome the loss of Neymar (left)

INEPT REFEREEING

Brazil were forced to do without Neymar in the semi-finals after an appalling foul by Colombia's Juan Zuniga which snapped a vertebra but didn't bring so much as a booking from an inept Spanish referee in Carlos Velasco Carballo.

As the game went on, you wondered why he flourished no yellow cards until far into the second half, when foul after foul was being committed by either side. Colombia's splendid new major star, James Rodriguez, was an all-too-frequent sufferer from rough play, so how ironic that he should be yellow carded, giving away the free-kick from which David Luiz scored a spectacular second Brazil goal.

You could understand, though hardly excuse, the crass error made in the 2010 Final by Howard Webb when he allowed Holland's Nigel De Jong to stay on the field after that atrocious early foul on Spain's Xabi Alonso. It would have taken a brave referee indeed to affect so radically a World Cup Final with so early an

Brazen...Suarez first denied biting Chiellini, then apologised to pave the way for a move to Barcelona

expulsion, but there is no doubt it should have happened. In the case of Carballo, he simply allowed the assault and battery to go on.

Speaking of which, what of the horrid affair of Luis Suarez? Bad enough that, having bitten Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at all, he should have lied so blatantly and unconvincingly, eliciting blind patriotic frenzy among his Uruguayan compatriots – and even the country's misguided and intemperate president.

But that Suarez should then, allegedly under pressure from a Barcelona club who would later sign him, do a volte-face, admitting that he had bitten Chiellini as charged and apologising for it, was brazen beyond belief.

I believe what I did at the time, that

> Suarez's bite was a manifestation of psychotic behaviour

Suarez's bite was a manifestation of psychotic behaviour, just as it had been on the two previous instances, first with Ajax and then at Liverpool.

Setting aside any questions of decency and morality, Barcelona should realise that they are enlisting an incurable recidivist. Barca no doubt calculate that the risk is worth taking and that Suarez will have scored enough goals with his enormous talent to make the deal worth doing before he bites again.

EXCITING SURPRISE

We did, however, have the exciting surprise of Costa Rica showing, as have the Uruguayans historically – if not in 2014 – that little countries can still compete at the highest level.

Too good for supposedly mighty Italy and Uruguay, Costa Rica were blessed in the sparkling attacking talents of Joel Campbell, who Arsenal will surely bring to London after allowing him to drift around Europe, and Bryan Ruiz, who was jettisoned by Fulham. Rather than shell out an absurd £12million for crocked Greek centre-forward Kostas Mitroglou, even if he did manage a few appearances in Brazil, could Fulham not have managed to get more out of a player so plainly capable of excellence?

And what of Chile, who gave Brazil so hard a time of it in Belo Horizonte, going out only on penalties after extra time and reducing the Brazilians to the long-ball game crudities. It was only the goalkeeping in the shoot-out of Brazil's Julio Cesar which saved the hosts from an even earlier humiliation.

And Spain? Have we seen the end of the obeisance to the inspired tip-tapping of the Barcelona style? That 5-1 defeat by Holland seemed horribly emphatic.

I remain baffled by their manager Vicente Del Bosque, as in 2010 in South Africa, constantly and inexplicably putting on Fernando Torres, as if convinced that, having overlooked the far more valid likes of Alvaro Negredo, he could bring Torres' flickering flame alight. He couldn't in 2010 and he couldn't here.

By the same token, you have to wonder why France did not make use of a player as gifted as Samir Nasri. Who knows, he might have helped them get a goal against Germany. It seems that, in one way or another, Nasri had offended manager Didier Deschamps.

ENGLAND CRITICISM

England didn't take John Terry or his former Chelsea team-mate Ashley Cole and could probably have done with both of them. Tony Adams, who in his heyday would have done so much better for England than Gary Cahill and Phil Jagielka, criticised manager Roy Hodgson for excluding Terry. But what could he do?

Terry, clumsily treated by the FA, in my opinion, when they took away his captaincy even before he had gone on trial, and been acquitted, of abusing Anton Ferdinand, had eventually stood down from the England team. What guarantee could there have been that he would even accept an olive branch from Hodgson? Hindsight suggests that it could have been sensible to bring Cole, but who was to know that Leighton Baines would have such a poor World Cup?

Ridicule poured down on England when they went home without a win, yet Italy's Prandelli generously praised them and they succumbed by 2-1 margins rather than 5-1 like poor Spain. Hodgson should arguably have been bolder, seen that Steven Gerrard was past his meridian,

Talent...Campbell was superb for Costa Rica

given more scope to Ross Barkley and certainly deployed Jack Wilshere, who at least can pass a ball, against Uruguay.

For the umpteenth time, I reiterate that Hodgson should have had the England job in 1994, after impressively taking Switzerland to the USA World Cup, having scared Italy in the qualifying process.

● Brian Glanville's *The Story of the World Cup* is out now (Faber & Faber, £14.99)

The great Di Stefano

For me, Alfredo Di Stefano was the second greatest player in football history, surpassed only by Pele. He was playing "Total Football" long before it was invented.

The stamina he said he'd built up running through the streets of Buenos Aires, his speed of mind and body, his astute passing (a glorious through ball had Ferenc Puskas trotting half the length of the field in Amsterdam to score against Benfica in the 1962 European Cup Final), his finishing power with foot and head, made him prolific.

He was an autocrat, of course, brooking no rivals. Didi, a major star for Brazil in the 1958 World Cup, hardly got a game when he joined Real Madrid afterwards. Raymond Kopa, a fine deep-lying centre-forward in that tournament, was obliged to play on the right wing. Even Puskas, so dominant with Hungary, bit the bullet and was prepared to let Di Stefano run the show.

Legend...Di Stefano was a supremely versatile footballer

Di Stefano never played in a World Cup. When flamboyant egotist Helenio Herrera managed Spain in Chile, in 1962, Di Stefano was officially "injured".

I recall going to Vina del Mar to the team's hotel, where Di Stefano's father told me he had brought a bottle of liniment. "Put it on and you could play," he'd told his son. But there was hardly a chance of that.

"Blatantly draconian, totalitarian and fascist"

Luis Suarez's lawyer, Alejandro Balbi, gives his opinion on his client's punishment

SPAIN

All smiles...Suarez, alongside his children, receives a hero's welcome from Uruguay fans despite his World Cup disgrace

Banned Suarez joins Barcelona in £75m deal

The four-month ban on Uruguay forward Luis Suarez for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini did not prevent Barcelona signing him from Liverpool for a reported fee of £75million.

Suarez's appeal against the ban, along with a nine-match international suspension and a £66,000 fine, was rejected by FIFA's appeals committee. He is expected to take his appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a final bid to reduce the ban that will keep him out of club football until the end of October. He is also set to miss out on Uruguay's games at next year's Copa America.

Suarez had initially refused to apologise, insisting that "I lost my balance, making my body unstable and falling on top of my opponent".

However, on his return to Montevideo after the World Cup, Suarez changed tack and issued an apology, stating: "I apologise to Giorgio Chiellini and the entire football family. I vow to the public that there will never again be another incident like this."

Within days, a deal had been agreed for the 27-year-old to move to the Camp Nou.

Barcelona have had a busy summer, also signing Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic from Sevilla and Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo from Real Socieded. They also agreed a £35m fee with Arsenal to sell Chile forward Alexis Sanchez.

Other World Cup players on the move included Croatia forward Mario Mandzukic, who left Bayern Munich for Atletico Madrid and Germany midfielder Toni Kroos, who was on the verge of leaving Bayern for Real Madrid.

In England, Liverpool moved swiftly to sign Southampton pair Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert, while teenage full-back Luke Shaw left Southampton for Manchester United in a deal worth an initial £27m. Elsewhere, Bacary Sagna quit Arsenal for Manchester City and Ivory Coast defender Arthur Boka joined Malaga.

Italy forward Ciro Immobile moved to Borussia Dortmund from Torino, along with Colombia forward Adrian Ramos, who joined from Hertha Berlin.

Other Bundesliga moves involving World Cup players included Cameroon forward Eric Choupo-Moting (Mainz to Schalke) and American defender Fabian Johnson (Hoffenheim to Borussia Monchengladbach). Bosnia-Herzegovina midfielder Izet Hajrovic moved to Werder Bremen from Galatasaray.

New start...Mandzukic is swapping the Budesliga for La Liga following his switch to Atletico Madrid

Premier-bound...Alexis Sanchez, one of Chile's most impressive performers in Brazil, has agreed a move to Arsenal

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THE PERFECT ENDING

Germany's success provided a fitting end to a wonderful tournament, says Gavin Hamilton

The German fans were in no rush to leave the Maracana stadium. An hour earlier, Mario Gotze's wondergoal had won a fourth World Cup for Germany. They were not leaving until they had savoured every last drop of victory.

Players joined supporters in joyful celebrations that epitomised the unity of the German squad. It was another triumph for the World Cup's most consistently successful nation. Brazil may have won more trophies, but Germany now have a quartet of successes, as well as a record 14 appearances in semi-finals. Brazil, by contrast, have contested nine semi-finals.

The Final had pitted individual brilliance

Support...Germany fans cheer on their team during the Final at the Maracana

in the form of Lionel Messi against the collective power of Germany; the tournament's most talented individual against its strongest team. The great faultline of top-level football had been clearly drawn.

In the end, Argentina produced their best performance of the tournament but they lacked the killer touch when they needed it most. Germany's deep squad proved too strong. Two substitutes combined for the goal, with Andre Schurrle providing the cross for Mario Gotze's electric finish.

"We're the first European team to win a title in South America and that makes us very proud," said Germany coach Joachim "Yogi" Low. "I told them before that they would have to give more than they ever had before because they were looking to achieve something new. We always knew that we would need 14 players during this match and everyone in top shape, and all the players had to be ready.

"It was good that we had a player who could come on and make an impact, and Gotze is a miracle boy – a boy wonder."

Gotze was the hero of the night, but it was a victory obtained through old-fashioned virtues of guts and determination. Nobody epitomised that more than Bastian Schweinsteiger, his face marked with blood after a clash with Sergio Aguero.

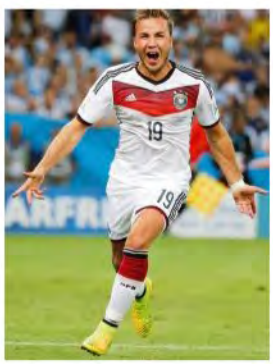
"If anyone deserves it then it's this team with Lahm, Schweinsteiger, Mertesacker, Podolski, Klose," Low said.

Germany's squad was packed full of big personalities but nobody was bigger than the team itself. Manuel Neuer was more than a goalkeeper, often operating as a third centre-back.

Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng proved a solid central defensive partnership in the knockout stages after Low had moved Philipp Lahm back to right-back. On the other flank, Benedikt Howedes excelled despite being played out of his usual central position.

Sami Khedira made a miraculous recovery from a knee injury and was exceptional alongside Schweinsteiger in the semi-final demolition of Brazil. Khedira's injury in the Final warm-up would have derailed lesser teams, but Germany were able to re-jig their resources. Even when Christoph Kramer, making his first competitive start, was forced off with concussion after half an hour, Toni Kroos dropped into a deeper midfield role and substitute Schurrle providing more attacking bite.

Failure...Scolari could not inspire his Brazil side to World Cup victory on home soil



German heroes...keeper Neuer (left) and scorer Gotze (right)

> "It was good that we had a player who could come on and make an impact"
> Germany coach **Joachim Low** on Gotze

Cut down...Schweinsteiger after his clash with Sergio Aguero

A-Z OF BRAZIL 2014

ALBICELESTE Hundreds of thousands of Argentina's noisey fans crossed the border into Brazil, adding to the locals' woes

BRAZUCA The ball that was such an improvement on 2010's Jabulani.

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL Their song *Bad Moon Rising* was reworked by Argentina fans and became the anthem of the tournament.

DI STEFANO The great man passed away during the tournament.

ENGLAND Home before the postcards. Again.

the Brazuca...a big hit with players

Kroos came of age during the tournament, although he almost gifted Argentina a goal, only for Gonzalo Higuain to fluff his opportunity. Alongside Kroos, Mesut Ozil was quietly effective, rising to the occasion in the Final. Thomas Muller was the silent assassin, scoring a hat-trick against Portugal.

Miroslav Klose, the veteran of the squad by some distance, eclipsed Ronaldo's 15 goals as the World Cup's all-time highest scorer with his strike against Brazil. The striker started the opening two games on the bench, with Gotze preferred in a "false nine" position. But Low demonstrated his ability to adapt formations by bringing in Klose as a more conventional centre-forward for the final group match against USA. He stayed in Germany's starting line-up for the rest of the tournament.

For Low and the German football federation, victory at the Maracana was the culmination of a process that began a decade ago. Germany's successive failures at the European Championships – failing to win a game in 2000 or 2004 – prompted a thorough re-think of German football structures. Money was invested in youth development, with the full co-operation of Bundesliga clubs.

"We started this project 10 years ago and this is the result of many years of work," said Low. "Beginning with Jurgen Klinsmann and then we carried it on. I think our strength was being able continually to improve our performance levels."

Germany's line-up against Brazil in the semi-final included six players who won the 2009 European Under-21 championship: Neuer, Howedes, Boateng, Khedira, Ozil and Hummels. The ability to integrate young players has been key to their success. So has the ability to respond to changes in football's tactical landscape.

STAGNATION

While Germany have adapted to developments at Barcelona and Bayern Munich, so Brazil have stagnated. Luis Felipe Scolari won the 2002 World Cup because he found a tactical template that allowed Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Rivaldo to thrive in the same team.

Twelve years later, Scolari tried to create a system that would get the best from Neymar. But when the music stopped and Brazil's poster boy was injured, a team built around a static target man and midfield destroyers was woefully exposed.

Scoring for fun... Thomas Muller completes his hat-trick against Portugal

Victory is mine...Low, the mastermind behind Germany's triumph

Germany's demolition of Brazil in Belo Horizonte was dazzling in its ruthlessness. Technically superior on every level, in movement, touch and thought, Low's men highlighted the importance of mental strength at the highest level of the game.

Brazil tried to ride a wave of national emotion as they sought a sixth World Cup victory. The tears shed by Julio Cesar and David Luiz may have galvanised the public, but they also exposed the emotional fragility at the heart of the squad.

Luiz, captain in the absence of Thiago Silva, and Cesar had held aloft a Neymar shirt during the singing of the national anthem before the semi-final. But such actions only highlighted Brazil's dependence on their star player and their subsequent weakness without him. Dunga, the former captain and coach, criticised the action for placing unnecessary strain on the players.

In contrast, Germany's players waited until after their Final victory before celebrating with a shirt in honour of Marco Reus, the Borussia Dortmund winger who was injured on the eve of the tournament. A time and a place for everything.

When it came to mental pressure Lionel Messi showed that he could cope. But whether he was physically up to the task of leading his country at the World Cup remains to be seen.

Messi missed his opportunity to confirm his status as one of the greatest of

FULECO The World Cup mascot who kept a strangely low profile.

GOALS Lots of them.

Final miss...Higuain shoots wide

HIGUAIN Argentina's striker who will always wonder what might have been.

INJURIES That ruled out Falcao, Gundogan, Reus, Ribery, Strootman and Van der Vaart.

JOGI Germany's coach who finally ripped up his loser's tag.

KEEPERS Brilliant individual performances from Howard, Navas, Ochoa, Bravo, Enyeama and others.

LUIZ The £50m defender whose tears and poor positioning epitomised Brazil's World Cup disaster.

MASCHERANO Argentina's real leader.

all time, but Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella defended his captain, saying: "As for his reputation, he is in that pantheon. But he was there before. He has been there for quite some time."

Messi turned 27 in Brazil and was named player of the tournament. He will be 31 at the next World Cup but he probably missed Argentina's best chance at the World Cup for a generation.

We were fortunate that Messi made it to the Final at all. Neymar was the high-profile casualty of a brutal foul by Colombia's Juan Zuniga in the quarter-final, even if Brazil's players were also guilty of systematic, rotation fouling of James Rodriguez in that same match.

FIFA referee boss Massimo Busacca insisted there had been no instruction to referees to issue fewer yellow cards, but officials clearly felt unencumbered by any pressure to issue bookings. Almost every game contained an incident where a yellow card should have been issued, but was not.

FIFA claimed there was a 40 per cent reduction in the number of injuries at this World Cup, compared to previous tournaments, but declined to take retrospective action against Zuniga for his foul on Neymar. Ironically, Colombia were awarded FIFA's fairplay award.

Overall, the refereeing was very good. Aside from Carlos Velasco's horror handling of Brazil-Colombia, there were few poorly officiated games. Yuichi Nishimura's penalty award to Brazil in the opening match was followed by linesman Humberto Clavijo's double offside in Mexico v Cameroon. Rashvan Irmatov allowed Tim Krul to wind up Costa Rica in the shoot-out with Holland and Nicola Rizzoli ignored Neuer's assault on Higuain in the Final.

Party time...German players run to their fans to celebrate World Cup victory

By default, refeeres contributed to greater attacking play. The 48 group matches featured 136 goals, an average of 2.83 – way up on 2010 and the highest since 1970. In total, 171 goals, a joint record with 1998 and far more than the 145 on 2010.

The finals were a success because they were in a country where football is the lifeblood of the people

So how to explain the change? We had more goalkeeping mistakes (step forward Iker Casillas) and poor defending from set-pieces (Italy's opener against England). There were a lot of early goals, forcing teams into earlier-than-planned changes of formation. The Brazuca ball was a clear improvement on the Jabulani from 2010. Players had more confidence that the Brazuca would not swerve out of control, as the Jabulani did, and so could shoot with greater confidence.

The crowds, too, played their part. In South Africa, the vuvuzelas deflated the atmosphere at stadiums; spectators in Brazil expected to be entertained and applauded attacking play.

There was no obvious plan to promote greater attacking football. It just happened. Indeed, this was the accidental World Cup, the DIY Mondial. Despite dire warnings beforehand that things would not be ready, everything worked, more or less. FIFA got away with things through luck, rather than judgement.

South American fans ignored warnings from FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke not to visit Brazil without hotel bookings and travel reservations. Thousands jumped in their cars and camper vans, drove hundreds of miles and stayed in improvised campsites, far away from FIFA's controlling gaze. The corporate commercial yardstick which FIFA applies to all its activities was ignored by the fans, who provided the colour and personality that previous tournaments have lacked.

All of which made FIFA's folly in taking the World Cup to Qatar in 2022 look all the more ridiculous. The 2014 finals were an outstanding success because they took place in a country where football is the lifeblood of the people.

After holding the tournament in South Africa in 2010, FIFA believed it could take the World Cup anywhere in the world. But Brazil have shown the value of hosting the World Cup in a traditional football nation.

Just ask the German fans celebrating in the Maracana.

Bad day...referee Velasco tries to keep order in the Brazil-Colombia match

NIKE
The curse struck again, on Rooney, Ronaldo and Neymar.

OLDEST
Colombia's Faryd Mondragon overtook Roger Milla as the World Cup's most senior player.

Mondragon...still going at 43

PELE
Brazil's greatest, but where was he?

QATAR
Nobody mentioned the 2022 hosts for a month.

RECIFE
The tournament's most inclement city, where it didn't rain, it poured.

SETE
Seven, the number that will haunt Brazilian football for decades.

Humiliation...the scoreboard says it all

THINGS WE LEARNED FROM **BRAZIL 2014**

1 African football continues to be let down by its administrators

Off-the-pitch rows derailed promising campaigns for Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria.

Tears...South Korea lost all three of their games in Brazil.

2 Asian football remains the weakest link

Australia, Iran, Japan and South Korea finished bottom of their respective groups, with three points from a possible 36.

3 BELTING OUT THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IS NOT ENOUGH

Brazil's tearful players and their mascots were proof that passion for the cameras does not win matches.

Luiz...the Brazilian's singing was better than his football

4 Technological innovations can improve the game

The vanishing spray and goal-line cameras worked.

Herrera...Mexico's coach upstaged many of the big names

5 GOOD COACHES NEED NOT COST THE EARTH

Miguel Herrera of Mexico and Costa Rica's Jorge Luis Pinto demonstrated the value of good coaching – in contrast to the millions Russia lavished on Fabio Capello.

Proof...Benzema's goal for France against Honduras

Klose...the only out-and-out striker Germany needed

6 WE ARE ALL MIDFIELDERS NOW

Germany went into the tournament with one recognised striker, Miroslav Klose, in their 23.

Star...Jara proves there's life after the Premier League

Ronaldo...could not do it alone.

7 Stars do not always carry the team

Cristiano Ronaldo enjoyed more haircuts than goal celebrations for Portugal.

8 FOOTBALL IS BETTER WITHOUT VUVUZELAS

The intimidating din of 2010 was replaced by noisy fans who applauded attacking football.

9 FIFA CAN GET DECISIONS RIGHT

The four-month ban on Luis Suarez for biting was widely applauded (except in Uruguay obviously).

10 Premier League rejects can thrive at a World Cup

Costa Rica's Bryan Ruiz (Fulham), Chile's Gonzalo Jara (West Bromwich Albion), Mexico's Giovani Dos Santos (Spurs) and Germany's Shkodran Mustafi (Everton) were just some of the players who impressed in Brazil.

TICOS Costa Rica's run to the quarter-finals was the story of the tournament.

UNDERDOGS USA, Algeria and Costa Rica: the lesser lights who punched above their weight.

Revelations...the Ticos of Costa Rica.

Successs... the referee's vanishing spray

VANISHING SPRAY The great innovation that nobody questioned.

WATER BREAKS Needed in the heat, but were they ad breaks in disguise?

XERDAN SHAQIRI One of the young stars of the tournament.

YELLOW CARDS Why were there so few of them dished out during the tournament?

ZLATAN Nobody missed him.

STARS OF THE SHOW

Gavin Hamilton picks the outstanding performers of the 2014 World Cup

GOALKEEPER

Manuel Neuer (Germany)
In a tournament that featured some exceptional goalkeeping, Neuer stood out for his outstanding displays as a "sweeper-keeper".
Honourable mentions: Guillermo Ochoa (Mexico), Sergio Romero (Argentina), Keylor Navas (Costa Rica), Claudio Bravo (Chile).

RIGHT-BACK

Philipp Lahm (Germany)
Germany's inspirational captain started the tournament in midfield but reverted to his more familiar role with typical aplomb.
Honourable mentions: Mauricio Isla (Chile), Pablo Zabaleta (Argentina), Cristian Gamboa (Costa Rica).

CENTRE-BACKS

Ron Vlaar (Holland)
Despite missing in the semi-final penalty shoot-out against Germany he at least had the strength of character to take the first spot-kick – unlike two of his team-mates who backed down.
Mats Hummels (Germany)
Brilliant for Germany at both ends of the pitch and scored the crucial winning goal against France in the quarter-final.
Honourable mentions: Ezequiel Garay (Argentina), Thiago Silva (Brazil), Vincent Kompany (Belgium), Mario Yepes (Colombia), Rafael Marquez (Mexico), Diego Godin (Uruguay).

LEFT-BACK

Benedikt Howedes (Germany)
The Schalke centre-back was played out of position but excelled against Cristiano Ronaldo in the opening game and was ever-present.
Honourable mentions: Marcos Rojo (Argentina), Daley Blind (Holland).

MIDFIELDERS

Toni Kroos (Germany, *left*)
Was outstanding against Brazil in the semi-final and refused to be distracted by media talk of a move to Real Madrid.
Javier Mascherano (Argentina)
An inspirational figure for his country, he held Argentina's midfield together and gave the team talk ahead of the semi-final extra time.
James Rodriguez (Colombia, *below*)
Announced his arrival on the world stage with a series of thrilling displays. The outstanding player of the group stages, but kicked out of the quarter-final by Brazil's targeted tactical fouling.

Honourable mentions: Bastian Schweinsteiger (Germany), Sami Khedira (Germany), Charles Aranguiz (Chile), Celso Borges (Costa Rica).

FORWARDS

Lionel Messi (Argentina)
The individual star of the tournament. His World Cup performances reinforced his position as one of the greatest players of all time.
Thomas Muller (Germany)
Ruthlessly efficient goalscorer who is on course to become the World Cup's all-time top scorer.
Neymar (Brazil)
Carried Brazil to the quarter-finals. His absence from the semi-final humiliation by Germany was a major factor in Brazil's capitulation.
Honourable mentions: Arjen Robben (Holland), Bryan Ruiz (Costa Rica), Alexis Sanchez (Chile), Xherdan Shaqiri (Switzerland).

THE EMERGING STARS

The World Cup is the perfect showcase for relatively unheralded players looking to make a lucrative move to a top European side – and Brazil 2014 offered up plenty of candidates, not least from the CONCACAF nations.

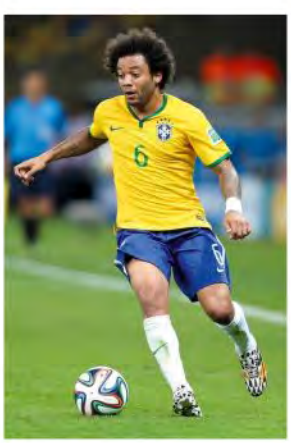
Many of the Costa Rica team have been attracting interest, headed by goalkeeper Keylor Navas who produced three man-of-the-match performances during his side's impressive run to the quarter-finals.

New star... Vazquez produced a series of impressive midfield displays

TOP OF THE FLOPS

The likes of Lionel Messi and Neymar may have excelled in Brazil but many of the game's biggest stars failed to perform on football's biggest stage.

Topping the list was Cristiano Ronaldo, although a good case could be made for including most of the players from two of the most hotly tipped teams pre-tournament: Brazil and Spain.



Bad time... Marcelo opened the World Cup with an own-goal and ended up being dropped from the team

TEAM BY TEAM: HOW THEY FARED

Gavin Hamilton reviews how the 32 finalists performed in Brazil

GROUP-STAGE EXIT

SPAIN

Marca's headline on the morning after defeat by Chile had ended the holders' World Cup was simple yet brutal. Above a picture of Andres Iniesta alone, leaving the pitch, it read "The End", in English.

Spain's era of unprecedented success is over. Brazil 2014 marked the end for a group of players who had formed arguably the greatest international side of all time. Something went horribly wrong. The team that had gone 10 consecutive knockout games – from Euro 2008, to the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012 – without conceding a goal went and let in seven in two games, against Holland and Chile.

"We have been at the very highest point. Now we are at the very lowest," said Iniesta.

In hindsight, the signs were there. Goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas had a disastrous opening game against Holland, yet a few weeks earlier his error in the Champions League Final had almost cost Real Madrid their 10th European Cup. Casillas was just one of a group of players involved in matches at the crucial end of the European club season. If Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque had selected too many heavy legs in his squad, he refused to admit as much in public. He did, however, acknowledge privately that only young midfielder Koke, seen as the long-term successor to Xavi, had shown the necessary desire.

The selection of Brazilian-born Diego Costa had been heralded as a pre-tournament victory over the hosts, who had also coveted him. Yet the deployment of the Atletico Madrid striker forced a change in Spain's play, with more direct forward passes and less of the intricate build-up play that had been at the heart of *tiki-taka*. Adding to the problem was the fact Costa had not been fully fit.

Spain's demise marks the end for a generation which has grown up together. Xavi, so crucial as the linchpin of the side, is off to play in Qatar, while David Villa will move to New York via a spell in Australia's A-League. Meanwhile, the future is uncertain for Casillas and Xabi Alonso.

"We were unable to maintain the conviction and ambition to defend our title," admitted Alonso. "We have been unable to maintain the hunger. Perhaps our quota of success has come to an end.

"All cycles come to an end with defeat. And this one has hurt. Physically we were also at the limit and we were unable to control the situations. Our pride is hurt."

Hits: Koke.

Misses: Diego Costa, Iker Casillas, Gerard Pique, Xavi, Sergio Ramos.

Coach's future: Del Bosque was expected to offer his resignation, although whether the Spanish federation accepts it – he is contracted until 2016 – remains to be seen.

Dejection...Rooney (no10) and his team-mates reflect on England's elimination

Controversial... Costa's selection forced a change in Spain's style

Clash...Cameroon's Moukandjo (left) and Assou-Ekotto came to blows

AUSTRALIA

The "Socceroos" left Brazil after suffering three defeats and with a goal difference of minus six. Yet, bizarrely, their tournament experience can be considered a success.

There was no shame in finishing bottom of such a tough group and coach Ange Postecoglou can take great pride in the performances of his young players, particularly against Holland. They were exhausted by the time they met Spain, when they missed the influential but suspended Tim Cahill, who had scored one of the goals of the tournament against the Dutch.

Australia adopted a new attacking blueprint as Postecoglou stuck with Cahill and Mark Bresciano from the class of 2006 but bloodied a whole new group of players in preparation for their hosting of the Asian Cup in January.

"We were written off well before this campaign and now we've won a lot of respect globally, not just in Australia," said Cahill.

Of the new generation, midfielder Mathew Leckie was the most impressive, giving Postecoglou hope for the future, especially as Tom Rogic, Robbie Kruse and

> "The future will be positive, we have good young players coming through"
> Spain coach **Vicente Del Bosque**

Rhys Williams all missed the finals because of injury.

"Time was the biggest enemy for me," said Postecoglou. "I was trying to do a lot in a short space of time and I didn't, right from the start, want to discount this World Cup as some sort of building exercise or experimentation. It was a lot of change in a short space of time."

Hits: Tim Cahill, Mathew Leckie, Mile Jedinak.

Misses: None.

Coach's future: Position and future plans are strengthened.

Bright...Australia's Leckie takes on the Chile defence

CAMEROON

Bottom of Group A, the "Indomitable Lions" suffered a repeat of 2010, losing all three group matches amid reports of off-the-field problems. A pre-tournament row with the football federation, in which players threatened not to board a plane to Brazil until their bonus terms were agreed, contributed to the overall sense of a chaotic campaign.

The post-mortem was thrown into disarray by reports in German magazine *Der Spiegel* in which convicted match-fixer Wilson Raj Perumal alleged Cameroon threw their game against Croatia.

During the 4-0 thrashing, Alex Song was sent off and Benoit Assou-Ekotto butted Benjamin Moukandjo – an action condemned by coach Volker Finke as "disgusting".

There were genuine selection issues; talismanic striker Samuel Eto'o missed the Croatia and Brazil games with a knee injury, while Finke was criticised for naming the inexperienced Cedric Djeugoue as his starting right-back against Mexico. Djeugoue was subbed at half-time, and when full-backs Allan Nyom and Henri Bedimo started the dead rubber against Brazil they showed glimpses of their talent. Similarly, defender Joel Matip and striker Vincent Aboubakar did not feature against Mexico, but also did well in the final game.

Again with Cameroon, it was a case of what might have been.

Hits: Joel Matip, Vincent Aboubakar.

Misses: Alex Song, Cedric Djeugoue.

Coach's future: Finke refused to resign, insisting he would honour his contract and lead them at the 2015 African Nations Cup.

ENGLAND

Although they went into the tournament with low expectations, there was still a sense of disappointment at the lack of quality shown in the defeats by Italy and Uruguay.

Manager Roy Hodgson largely escaped criticism because of the positive tactics he adopted, as well as the blooding of talent such as Adam Lallana, Ross Barkley, Raheem Sterling and Luke Shaw.

Wayne Rooney was briefly a threat when played in the central striker position, but it was further back that England's deficiencies were exposed. John Stones apart, there are few quality youngsters coming through in central defence, while captain Steven Gerrard was considered the best option in defensive midfield – a position not filled with distinction since Owen Hargreaves at the 2006 World Cup.

Hits: Ross Barkley, Luke Shaw, Raheem Sterling.

Misses: Steven Gerrard, Leighton Baines, Phil Jagielka.

Coach's future: Hodgson is under contract until 2016 and has the backing of FA chairman Greg Dyke.

HONDURAS

Three games, three defeats and another premature exit for the central Americans, whose big-name players failed to show up on the global stage.

They were criticised for their physical approach in the opening game against France, when Wilson Palacios was sent off, but they felt that refereeing decisions went against them. On the plus side, a scorcher from Carlo Costly briefly gave them the lead against Ecuador and bettered their performance in 2010, when they failed to score a single goal.

Coach Luis Fernando Suarez stepped down after the 3-0 defeat by Switzerland, saying: "It's not a resignation. I unilaterally take the decision of not continuing."

Hits: Noel Valladares, Carlo Costly.

Misses: Wilson Palacios, Jerry Bengtson, Emilio Izaguirre.

Coach's future: Looking for a new man after the departure of Suarez.

GROUP-STAGE EXIT

CROATIA

Went into the tournament in confident mood, despite the absence of suspended striker Mario Mandzukic for the opening match, but things threatened to unravel after the opening defeat to Brazil. Their sense of injustice over the penalty conceded in Sao Paulo was compounded by a row over paparazzi photographs taken of the players relaxing nude by the swimming pool at the squad's training base.

The affair prompted the players to refuse to speak to the Croatian media, but a 4-0 win over a poor Cameroon side in their second match restored their fortunes and the players were in combative mood ahead of the final game against Mexico. However, they struggled to find their attacking stride against a well-organised Mexico and lost 3-1 in a bad-tempered game.

Mexico killed the game and Croatia left Mandzukic isolated, prompting the media back at home to question Niko Kovac's tactical approach. A pre-tournament injury to first-choice left-back Ivan Strinic had left Kovac reliant on Danijel Pranjic, but against Mexico he experimented with Pranjic in a holding midfield role.

Although Kovac changed things at half-time, moving Pranjic back to left-back, he faced criticism for failing to get the best from his key midfielders Ivan Rakitic and Luka Modric, who both struggled to impose themselves. Left-winger Ivan Perisic was the team's brightest performer.

Hits: Ivica Olic, Ivan Perisic.
Misses: Stipe Pletikosa, Danijel Pranjic.
Coach's future: Kovac is still young and will be given more time to prove himself.

Shouldering the burden...Ecudaor's Enner Valencia battles with Mamadou Sakho of France

Aerial attack... Balotelli showed both sides of his enigmatic personality in Brazil

IVORY COAST

Once again they failed to rise to the occasion at a major tournament, raising further questions about their mental fragility. The so-called "golden generation" of players such as Didier Drogba, Kolo Toure, Didier Zokora is now left contemplating retirement.

The Ivorians produced a stirring comeback to beat Japan, when Serge Aurier, the Toulouse full-back who was the pick of the bunch, supplied two great crosses for Wilfried Bony and Gervinho to head in. But they needed a draw from the final game against Greece and were left fuming by the injury-time penalty conceded to Georgios Samaras.

"Once again, the refereeing was not on our side," complained Yaya Toure. "We had at least two penalties turned down during our game against Japan. And this time, one is invented against Greece. Of course, it does not upset anyone because it only concerns an African team."

Coach Sabri Lamouchi resigned, although he managed to get the best from the ageing Drogba by deploying him with great effect as a substitute against Japan.

Yaya Toure, not fully fit, was in mourning for younger brother Ibrahim, who died of cancer during the tournament. He may also have been distracted by talk of a possible move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Hits: Serge Aurier, Gervinho.
Misses: Yaya Toure.
Coach's future: Lamouchi quit within minutes of the defeat by Greece.

> "There are two World Cups: one in the north and one in the south"
> Italy's **Andrea Pirlo**

JAPAN

A great disappointment given the huge expectations built up by the media at home. The players largely escaped criticism, with coach Alberto Zaccheroni taking the flak for his substitutions and for sticking with players past their use-by date (especially Yasuhito Endo and Yasuyuki Konno).

Japan began with a polished passing game and Keisuke Honda scored a terrific goal against Ivory Coast, but they resorted to a rather frantic use of long-ball tactics when under pressure.

Local media came in for some criticism for "deceiving" the Japanese people into thinking their team was stronger than it was, but the gulf in quality became all too apparent in Brazil.

The unconfirmed word from the Japan Football Association (JFA) is that they are looking for a more defensive coach to replace the departing Zaccheroni. Such a move would signal a major shift in mindset at the top.

Hits: Atsuto Uchida, Makoto Hasebe.
Misses: Shinji Kagawa.
Coach's future: Javier Aguirre of Mexico was reported to be the JFA's number one target as Zaccheroni's replacement.

ECUADOR

Reinaldo Rueda's side never recovered from the hammer blow of conceding an injury-time winner to Switzerland in their opening game.

They beat Honduras in their next game, when winger-turned-striker Enner Valencia came of age, and they had their moments in the final game against France, but ultimately Rueda's conservative tactics – which involved relying on the teams's pacy wingers and a lone forward on the counter-attack – proved ineffective.

Captain Antonio Valencia's reckless red card against France ended any hope of reaching the second round.

Hits: Enner Valencia.
Misses: Antonio Valencia.
Coach's future: Rueda looks set to stay in place for the foreseeable future.

ITALY

The "*Azzurri*" left Brazil after scoring just two goals in three matches, their lowest tally since 1966. Coach Cesare Prandelli tendered his resignation, along with federation president Giancarlo Abete in the prelude

No joy...Dzeko's goal against Nigeria was ruled out

to a long and painful post-mortem.

Italy had begun well, beating England in Manaus, but were poor against Costa Rica, when tiredness after their exertions in the previous game set in. They needed a draw with Uruguay to scrape into the knockout stage but were unsettled by Claudio Marchisio's red card and the infamous bite by Luis Suarez on Giorgio Chiellini. With the Italian defence distracted, Diego Godin scored the winner that took Uruguay into the last 16.

Defeat prompted a scathing attack from Prandelli, who said: "We have to rebuild from the bottom up. Starting from the juniors we have to instil admiration for what the national team represents.

"There's no hiding it: the national team is disliked. We're the only national team that leaves (for the World Cup) without the support of its own people, who then rely on us to carry the hopes of a nation. We were jeered, whistled at and insulted."

Mario Balotelli scored against England but was subbed at half-time against Uruguay amid reports that he cut a remote, detached figure in the squad.

Prandelli – who took over at Galatasaray after his exit – pinpointed Marchisio's sending-off as the turning point in Italy's campaign, but goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon offered a more accurate analysis. "Maybe our expectations were too high after that opening win," he said. "Now we know the hard reality."

Hits: Andrea Pirlo.
Misses: Mario Balotelli.
Coach's future: A large hole to fill, with no national coach or federation president.

On the spot...Croatia protest in vain as referee Yuichi Nishimura awards Brazil a penalty in the opening game of the tournament

"We should have done better with the quality of our players but now is the time for this team to look forward to the Euro 2016 qualifiers"
Bosnia coach **Safet Susic**

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Mixed feelings after the country's first appearance at a major tournament. The pride at hearing the national anthem played before the opening game against Argentina contrasted with the "what if?" disappointment of losing to Nigeria in the second game, when Edin Dzeko's goal was wrongly disallowed for offside.

Young defensive midfielder Muhamed Besic, a surprise late call-up to the squad, earned praise for his performances, as did goalkeeper Asmir Begovic and full-back Sead Kolasinac. But Dzeko lacked sharpness in front of goal, and more was expected of Emir Spahic as the captain and veteran of the side.

Hits: Muhamed Besic, Sead Kolasinac.
Misses: Emir Spahic.
Coach's future: Although Safet Susic hinted at resignation, he later signed a new contract taking him up to 2016.

IRAN

Three straight defeats, but Iran earned praise at home for their performances, especially for holding out for 91 minutes against Argentina before being broken by the brilliance of Lionel Messi.

Coach Carlos Queiroz brought a new professionalism to preparations and his recruitment of overseas-born players such as Steven Beitashour has opened up an exciting new source of players for the future. The federation was keen to enter into discussions with Queiroz over his future but the Mozambique-born coach seems determined to quit.

The players were universally praised by the Iranian media, with the performances of Mehrdad Pooladi, Andranik Teymourian, Reza Ghoochannejad and Ashkan Dejagah singled out for particular praise.

Hits: Mehrdad Pooladi, Andranik Teymourian, Reza Ghoochannejad, Ashkan Dejagah.
Misses: None.
Coach's future: Queiroz seems likely to move on despite the federation's best efforts to keep him.

GROUP-STAGE EXIT

PORTUGAL

One of the big European casualties, with coach Paulo Bento and the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) bracing themselves for a backlash after a fiasco of a campaign.

Bento received the brunt of the criticism following the opening defeat by Germany and the failure to beat USA and Ghana. The coach had stuck by an ageing squad; the starting line-up against Germany was the same as at Euro 2012, with the exception of the ineffective Hugo Almeida for the injured Helder Postiga. Young midfielder William Carvalho's claims for a starting place were ignored in favour of Miguel Veloso for the first two games but he impressed when starting against Ghana. In-form Ricardo Quaresma was left at home, while Rafa Silva, the youngest member of the squad, did not see a minute of action.

The FPF came under fire for the pre-tournament week spent in the USA, when all the other teams were acclimatising in Brazil, and for the choice of a base with very different climatic conditions to the match venues.

Portugal's big-name players all failed to deliver. Cristiano Ronaldo's fitness was never complete, Fabio Coentrao's tournament was over after 65 minutes, Joao Moutinho was strangely subdued after a disappointing season at Monaco, while Pepe was Pepe – again.

Hits: William Carvalho.
Misses: Pepe, Joao Moutinho, Nani.
Coach's future: Bento remains under contract until 2016 but his position will come under great scrutiny.

Disgraced...Muntari (no11) and Boateng were sent home

GHANA

One draw and two defeats do not tell the full story. Ghana played well for large parts of their three games, particularly against USA and Germany, but the overriding image of their World Cup will be of the convey escorting the players' cash bonus of $3.5million from Brasilia airport.

Commendable performances on the pitch were overshadowed by the row that resulted in Kevin-Prince Boateng and Sulley Muntari being sent home early amid claims Muntari had assaulted a federation official and Boateng had verbally abused coach Kwesi Appiah. Goalkeeper Adam Kwarasey defended the pair, saying they had only been sticking up for their team-mates. "They spoke out, they told the truth," he said. "The truth was maybe too much for the guys running the FA."

Appiah said Boateng would not be picked again, while also reporting midfielder Michael Essien refused to warm up with other substitutes during the final game against Portugal.

Boateng, for his part, slammed the federation. "I never thought that anybody could organise a World Cup so badly – from the flights to the hotels, everything was so amateurish," he said.

"The flight from Miami to Brazil was 12 hours and we were sat, cramped, in economy. For a professional sportsman it's unreasonable. At the same time, the [federation] president was sat in business [class] with his wife and children."

Hits: Asamoah Gyan, Andre Ayew, Jonathan Mensah.
Misses: Kevin-Prince Boateng, Michael Essien.
Coach's future: Appiah came under fire but he was backed by the federation.

RUSSIA

A miserable, lifeless, winless campaign for which coach Fabio Capello took the blame from the media and public. The Italian's cautious, safety-first strategy meant Russia never took the initiative and matters were compounded by defensive errors. Igor Akinfeev's gaffe gifted South Korea the lead in their opening game, while key attackers Aleksandr Kerzhakov and Alan Dzagoev were kept on the bench.

Capello was criticised for selecting the inexperienced right-back Aleksei Kozlov and for leaving out the Russian league's top scorer, Artyom Dzyuba, from the squad. He delayed naming his captain, Vasili Berezutski, until two days before the finals, although the defender was one of Russia's better performers. Things might have been different had injured Roman Shirokov been around.

There is currently little optimism for four years time, when Russia will host. Capello has suggested offering Russian citizenship to the league's foreign players, but he may not be around to select them.

Hits: Vasili Berezutski.
Misses: Aleksei Kozlov, Igor Akinfeev.
Coach's future: Highly-paid Capello was heavily blamed for failure in Brazil, but he is under contract until 2018.

SOUTH KOREA

A disappointing tournament but one that was not entirely unexpected given the inexperienced nature of the defence and the lack of quality in attack.

There were some protests at the airport on the team's arrival back home – with a small group of fans pelting the players with toffees – but most of the criticism was reserved for the Korea Football Association after it appointed an inexperienced coach in Hong Myung-bo, who resigned after the finals despite pleas from the FA for him to stay on.

The performance of Son Heung-min offers some hope but Park Chu-young, who was selected on past reputation, was a key reason why the attack lacked pace and variation. He is unlikely to feature again for the national side.

Hits: Son Heung-min.
Misses: Park Chu-young.
Coach's future: The federation will look to appoint a new boss as soon as possible ahead of the Asian Cup in January.

Not happy... Ronaldo takes issue with referee Milorad Mazic in the game against Germany

Impressive...keeper Ochoa repels a Holland attack

ROUND-OF-16 EXIT

CHILE

Jorge Sampaoli's side continued the attacking traditions of the Marcelo Bielsa team that lit up South Africa in 2010. Tactically ambitious, they too played with pace, swagger and directness.

Even the nature of their exit, losing a dramatic shoot-out to Brazil, was in keeping with their role as the tournament's chief entertainers. Chile came within a whisker of knocking out the hosts when Mauricio Pinilla's shot slammed the crossbar in the final minute of extra time, but after their fourth World Cup defeat by Brazil, the hoodoo remains.

Sampaoli heaped praise on his players, commenting: "The players did everything possible and have represented our country in a beautiful, wonderful way. They will go down in history for the way they represented their country."

Chile's fans poured into Brazil in their tens of thousands. Around 80 were arrested and deported after breaking their way into the Maracana stadium. But the vast majority were good-natured.

Hits: Alexis Sanchez, Claudio Bravo, Gary Medel.

So close...Chile's Pinilla hits the Brazil bar

Misses: None.

Coach's future: Sampaoli confirmed he will stay on to lead the team at the 2015 Copa America.

URUGUAY

Suarez, Suarez, Suarez. Uruguay's campaign was engulfed by the controversy surrounding Luis Suarez's attack on Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini.

After an early setback against Costa Rica, victories over England and Italy had raised hopes that Oscar Tabarez's side might emulate their semi-final success of four years ago, but the lengthy ban handed down to Suarez killed their campaign.

> "I apologise to Giorgio Chiellini and the entire football family. I vow to the public that there will never be another incident"
>
> **Luis Suarez** on his infamous bite

In the second round match against Colombia, Uruguay set out to stop the opposition playing but could not find any creativity in their own attack when needed. Tabarez defended the approach, declaring: "We are sure, even if some people don't agree, that Uruguay has to play this way on the international stage, really focusing on limiting the opposition. I think the people in Uruguay understand that and that's why there is so much feeling between the players and the supporters."

Uruguay's best performers were the fighters who embodied the "*garra charrua*" spirit: the likes of midfielder Egidio Arevalo Rios and captain Diego Godin. Young defender Jose Maria Gimenez was a revelation despite featuring little for Atletico Madrid last season.

Uruguay's physical approach and the likely retirement of elder players such as captain Diego Lugano prompted some to call for a new coach with a more attacking outlook. Tabarez's contract expired at the end of the tournament but the 67-year-old appeared keen to stay on.

Hits: Egidio Arevalo Rios, Diego Godin, Jose Maria Gimenez.

Misses: Luis Suarez.

Coach's future: Uncertain, with Tabarez yet to discuss his situation with the federation.

Taking the fall...Suarez plays the injured party after the biting incident

MEXICO

After the disastrous qualifying campaign, "*El Tri*" exceeded expectations in Brazil but still exited the tournament at a familiar stage. There was anger at the late penalty conceded to Holland but such an experienced player as Rafael Marquez should not have been fooled by Arjen Robben.

Marquez was actually one of the players responsible for the turnaround in Mexico's fortunes under Miguel Herrera. The veteran thrived in Herrera's 5-3-2 system, along with Giovani Dos Santos, who had been jettisoned along with other foreign-based players for the play-offs but made a successful return in Brazil.

However, the undoubted stars were goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, and coach Herrera, whose energetic touchline celebrations sparked a host of online tributes.

The re-integration of Dos Santos bodes well for the future, assuming Herrera stays on board to oversee a young side that will be confident of further progress in 2018.

Hits: Giovani Dos Santos, Guillermo Ochoa, Miguel Layun.

Misses: None.

Coach's future: Herrera's contract is expected to be upgraded and extended to cover the 2015 Copa America and Gold Cup.

ROUND-OF-16 EXIT

GREECE

Made the knockout stage for the first time but without lighting up the tournament. The opening defeat by Colombia almost derailed their campaign, but they defended well against Japan. Against Ivory Coast they showed great spirit but lacked creative ideas and needed some gamesmanship from Georgios Samaras to win the injury-time penalty that took them into the last 16.

They then struggled to break down Costa Rica, who gave the Greeks a taste of their own Euro 2004 medicine.

New players were introduced, such as defender Kostas Manolas, which bodes well for whoever replaces Fernando Santos as coach.

Hits: Kostas Manolas.
Misses: Theofanis Gekas.
Coach's future: Santos stepped down after his contract expired.

NIGERIA

The African champions appeared to have avoided the fate of Ghana and Cameroon by agreeing a deal over player bonuses during the tournament. But on their return home, federation officials, including FA president Aminu Maigari, were sacked by the country's sports ministry – and the country was suspended from all international football by FIFA for government interference.

Yet Nigeria's campaign would still be considered a success by most. They reached the knockout stage for the first time and played well in spells against France in the round of 16.

They had begun slowly, failing to beat Iran, but Musa Ahmed scored two exciting goals in the defeat by Argentina. A crucial Vincent Enyeama save against Bosnia helped them go through.

Coach Stephen Keshi, despite previous problems with the federation, managed to nurture team spirit but suffered unfortunate injuries to Ogenyi Onazi and Michael Babatunde.

After the loss to France, Keshi told his players he was leaving amid reports that he had not been offered a new contract. Failure to keep Keshi would mark another blow for Nigeria's football administrators.

Hits: Musa Ahmed, Vincent Enyeama.
Misses: Ogenyi Onazi, Michael Babatunde.
Coach's future: Unclear.

Heroes...Algeria are welcomed home by fans in Algiers

Last words...coach Hitzfeld retired after the tournament

ALGERIA

The "Desert Foxes" arrived home in Algiers to a heroes' welcome after a campaign that exceeded all expectations. Four years on from South Africa, where they failed to win a game and failed to score, Algeria reached the second round for the first time and gave Germany a run for their money, taking them to extra time in a thrilling match.

Defeat to a late Belgium goal in their first match almost knocked them off course, but a brilliant first half against South Korea was one of the best performances by an African team at the World Cup.

Coach Vahid Halilhodzic had endured a difficult relationship with the federation in the build-up to the tournament, but proved adept at tactical changes, using 19 of his 20 outfield players over the course of four games.

The question of Halilhodzic's successor remains unanswered but a young team, perhaps augmented by more France-born players, should grow in stature over the coming years.

Hits: Islam Slimani, Rais M'Bolhi, Sofiane Feghouli.
Misses: none.
Coach's future: A tearful Halilhodzic stepped down at the end of his contract, despite a campaign to persuade him to sign a new deal.

SWITZERLAND

Old-stager Ottmar Hitzfeld's young team threw off the boring tag of previous campaigns to produce a respectable second-round finish.

It was a topsy turvy campaign. A brilliant final minute against Ecuador, which secured their first win over South American opposition, was followed by a five-goal humiliation by France, who conceded two late goals to give the scoreline a veneer of respectability.

Xherdan Shaqiri was the team's star performer, scoring a thrilling hat-trick against Honduras to confirm Switzerland's place in the knockout stages.

They caused Argentina problems in the second round, taking the match to extra time. Had the Swiss begun the game by attacking Argentina with the same vigour as in the final few minutes of extra time, when they had three good chances to score, things could have been very different.

Young talent...USA's 19-year-old striker Green

Hits: Xherdan Shaqiri.
Misses: Josip Drmic.
Coach's future: Hitzfeld's retirement brought the curtain down on an illustrious career. The experienced Serbian coach Vladimir Petkovic is set to succeed him.

USA

On paper, the USA's second-round loss to Belgium did not mark any significant progress on 2010, when they went out at a similar stage, to Ghana. But in terms of the sport's progression to the mainstream in America, the tournament marked a tipping point. Huge crowds turned out to watch public screenings of matches, with ESPN describing the 2-2 draw with Portugal as "the most-viewed soccer match in the United States ever".

American fans also travelled to Brazil in significant numbers to support their team. The chants of "I believe that we will win" helped carry the team through to extra time against Belgium.

Coach Jurgen Klinsmann controversially omitted record goalscorer Landon Donovan from his squad, but what the team lacked in inspiration they compensated for with teamwork and fearless attitude; truly a team that was greater that the sum of its parts.

Hits: Tim Howard, Jermaine Jones, Matt Besler, DeAndre Yedlin, Julian Green.
Misses: Michael Bradley, Jozy Altidore.
Coach's future: Position enhanced.

FRANCE

A comfortable group draw meant that France were always likely to progress from the opening round of the competition without too much trouble, before going down to the first quality team they faced. And so it proved for Didier Deschamps' side.

His young team was beaten by a far more experienced Germany side, but it proved a positive experience for the coach ahead of the country's hosting of Euro 2016.

Perhaps mindful of the self-destructive events in South Africa in 2010, Deschamps took the tough decision to omit Samir Nasri – who might have been seen as a possible disruptive influence – but his side lacked the spark that the injured Franck Ribery would have given them.

There were doubts over Mamadou Sakho's fitness – should he have played against Germany? – while questions remain over Karim Benzema's effectiveness in the really big games.

The tournament may have come too soon for the young squad, but the future looks bright for "*Les Bleus*".

Hits: Paul Pogba, Antoine Griezmann, Blaise Matuidi.
Misses: Mamadou Sakho.
Coach's future: Deschamps is in place to oversee France's hosting of Euro 2016.

Questions... Benzema still has his critics

COLOMBIA

Colombia delighted with some wonderful attacking football in their first World Cup for 16 years and produced their best-ever World Cup performance.

There had been doubts over where their goals would come from in the absence of injured talisman Falcao, but James Rodriguez emerged as a new superstar, while Jackson Martinez weighed in with goals and Juan Cuadrado was an energetic presence on the right flank.

After pushing Brazil close in the quarter-final, it was sad that the aftermath focused on Juan Zuniga's vicious foul on Neymar and not Brazil's rotation fouling of Rodriguez.

Hits: James Rodriguez, Juan Cuadrado.
Misses: Juan Zuniga.
Coach's future: Uncertain, but the federation would like Jose Pekerman to stay.

Handful... Colombia caused several problems for Brazil

QUARTER-FINALS EXIT

Bright...Origi eludes Jermaine Jones of the USA

BELGIUM

The quarter-finals were always likely to be the limit for a young squad with an inexperienced coach, especially as Argentina lay in wait. But in their first World Cup for 12 years, Belgium showed plenty of potential to make progress in 2016 and 2018.

Perhaps Marc Wilmots' squad were overhyped because of their Premier League connections, but they showed plenty of character to overcome an early setback against Algeria and to score late against an unambitious Russia side.

Romelu Lukaku came alive against the USA, but was disappointing in the group games. Fortunately, Divock Origi emerged as a bright new talent. Adnan Januzaj, who made his World Cup debut in the final group game, could be an important addition to the squad.

Hits: Divock Origi, Vincent Kompany, Kevin De Bruyne.

Misses: Eden Hazard.

Coach's future: Wilmots has signed a four-year contract extension.

Inspirational... keeper Navas thwarts Holland

COSTA RICA

Dismissed as also-rans in a tough group with three former champions, and it was easy to see why. They suffered injuries to key players Alvaro Saborio and Bryan Oviedo, and lost four friendlies in 2014, drawing only with the Republic of Ireland.

But the "*Ticos*" were the story of the tournament, surprising everybody in Brazil – except themselves. Coach Jorge Luis Pinto, a sports science graduate from Cologne university, and his staff spent months planning the campaign in Brazil, with nothing left to chance.

"We were all working for six months," said midfielder Celso Borges. "There's no magic to it. We just put a lot of heart into it. That's almost three years of training with the same principles."

A five-man defence made them hard to beat and they were helped by inspirational goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

Hits: Keylor Navas, Giancarlo Gonzalez.

Misses: None.

Coach's future: Uncertain, with his contract due to expire.

SEMI-FINALS EXIT

BRAZIL

The pressure proved too much. The tears shed during the singing of the national anthem were a sign of the mental fragilities at the heart of the squad. And against Germany, without star player Neymar and best defender Thiago Silva, the *Selecao* imploded.

The capitulation to Germany was shocking, but the truth is that Brazil defended poorly in all their games, conceding in all bar the goalless draw with Mexico. Neymar's individual brilliance saved the day against Croatia and Cameroon, but dependence upon him proved their undoing.

In seeking to get the best from Neymar, coach Luis Felipe Scolari failed to build an alternative playing system. He relied on physical intimidation against Colombia, while Fred somehow retained the coach's confidence as first-choice striker.

After the shock and humiliation, the inquest. New tactics and new players are needed, as well as a new coach. But a deeper understanding of the problems of Brazilian domestic football – the chaotic club competitions, the sale of youngsters to Europe, the trigger-happy

Passion...but the occasion got to Brazil in the end

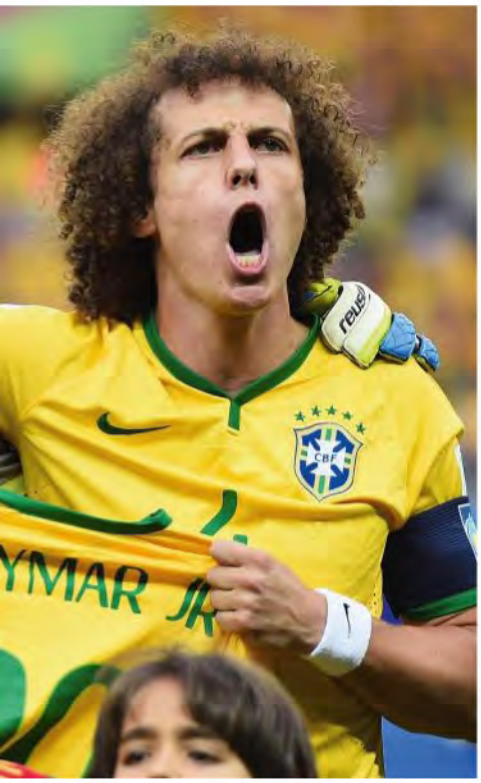
club owners – will be needed before Brazil can rebuild their reputation.
Hits: Neymar, Thiago Silva.
Misses: Fred, Marcelo, Hulk.
Coach's future: Scolari a dead man walking after the semi-finals.

HOLLAND

A disappointing end, out on penalties to Argentina, but reaching the semi-finals exceeded the target of a squad that lost midfielders Kevin Strootman and Rafael Van der Vaart to injury before the tournament.

Louis Van Gaal demonstrated tactical flexibility and boldness with his substitutions, but it was disappointing to see such a cautious approach in the semi-finals. His formations were designed to get the best from Holland's "golden triangle" of Robin Van Persie, Arjen Robben and Wesley Sneijder. But only Robben was a consistent threat; Van Persie scored a wondergoal against Spain but was subdued thereafter.

Guus Hiddink inherits a squad with some exciting youngsters, notably defenders Stefan De Vrij, Daley Blind and Daryl Janmaat.
Hits: Stefan De Vrij, Arjen Robben.
Misses: Wesley Sneijder.
Coach's future: Van Gaal will be succeeded by another former coach, Guus Hiddink.



RUNNERS-UP

ARGENTINA

Alejandro Sabella's side did not play the ambitious attacking football of some of their South American contemporaries, partly because teams set out to stop them. Only against Nigeria in their final group game did that happen.

Everything was geared towards Lionel Messi – and why wouldn't it be? – as Sabella heeded the lessons of 2010, when Messi was played out on the left wing by Diego Maradona. No other coach has got as much from Messi as Sabella, but it was not enough.

This was Argentina's best opportunity in a generation to win the World Cup, but they lost Angel Di Maria to injury, Sergio Aguero was never fully fit and Messi could not win it on his own.
Hits: Javier Mascherano, Enzo Perez, Marcos Rojo.
Misses: Gonzalo Higuain, Rodrigo Palacio.
Coach's future: Expected to go.

Individual award...Messi was named player of the tournament

WINNERS

GERMANY

The tournament's best team, by some distance, they thrashed Portugal in their opening game and overcame three former winners en route to a fourth world title.

Dazzling in their demolition of Brazil, they had enough left in the tank to cross the finishing line ahead of Argentina.

Champions... Germany win world title number four

Coach Joachim Low shuffled his squad and tweaked his tactics to provide a winning formula.
Hits: Miroslav Klose, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Toni Kroos, Thomas Muller, Mario Gotze.
Misses: None.
Coach's future: Bright.

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Stunning...Gotze watches his volley beat Romero

June 13, 2014

GERMANY (0) 1 — ARGENTINA (0) 0

Gotze 113

after extra time; Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro — Att: 74,738

FOUR FOR GERMANY

Argentina had their chances, but Germany won thanks to a brilliant goal from substitute Mario Gotze in injury time.

KEY MOMENTS

0-1 Gotze controlled a cross from Andre Schurrle on his chest before volleying past Sergio Romero.

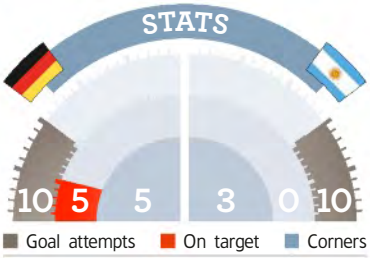
MAN OF THE MATCH

Bastian Schweinsteiger (Germany)
The midfielder was immense over the course of 120 minutes. He ended the match with a bloodied face, a result of a clash with Sergio Aguero.

MATTER OF FACT

Argentina's only shot on target in the entire match was Gonzalo Higuain's shot that was ruled out for offside.

Disappointed...Messi and his team-mates



TALKING POINT

Germany won their fourth World Cup with a brilliant piece of finishing from Gotze seven minutes from the end of extra time, but Argentina had enough chances to win the game in normal time. Higuain and Rodrigo Palacio both failed to take opportunities, while Lionel Messi was strangely below par. Things might have been different for Argentina had Angel Di Maria recovered his fitness, while some people will question the wisdom of omitting Carlos Tevez from the squad.

Close...Palacio lifts the ball over Manuel Neuer, but his effort drifts wide

WHO SAID WHAT

"I said to [Gotze]: 'OK, show the world that you are better than Messi and can decide the World Cup. You have the potential to do just that.' I had a good feeling about him"
Germany coach **Joachim Low**'s pep talk to sub Gotze

GERMANY (4-2-3-1)

Neuer; Lahm, Boateng, Hummels, Howedes; Schweinsteiger, Kramer (Schurrle 31); Muller, Kroos, Ozil (Mertesacker 120); Klose (Gotze 87)
■ Schweinsteiger, Howedes

ARGENTINA (4-2-)

Romero; Zabaleta, Demichelis, Garay, Rojo; Mascherano, Biglia; Lavezzi (Aguero 46), Messi, Perez (Gago 85); Higuain (Palacio 76)
■ Mascherano, Aguero
Referee: Rizzoli (Ita)

THIRD PLACE PLAY OFF

Third best...Robben (left) and Van Persie

July 12, 2014

BRAZIL (0) 0

HOLLAND (2) 3

Van Persie pen 3, Blind 17, Wijnaldum 90+1

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia
Att: 68,034

ANOTHER BLOW FOR BRAZIL

Any hope Brazil had of salvaging some pride from the tournament were ended within three minutes as Holland romped to victory.

KEY MOMENTS

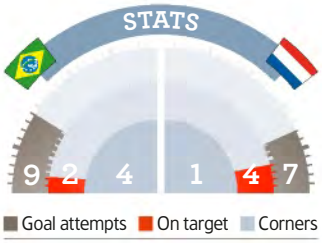
0-1 Thiago Silva pulled back Arjen Robben and Robin Van Persie converted the spot-kick.

0-2 Daley Blind chested down by David Luiz's poor defensive header and volleyed past Julio Cesar.

0-3 Georginio Wijnaldum turned in Daryl Janmaat's cross.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Arjen Robben (Holland)
Was again his side's biggest attacking threat.



MATTER OF FACT

With the introduction of Michel Vorm in injury time, Holland used all 23 of their squad over the course of the tournament.

TALKING POINT

Brazil had the chance to restore some pride after the humiliating semi-final defeat to Germany, but they carried on where they left off in Belo Horizonte, with poor defending gifting Holland all three goals. Before the tournament Brazil's defence had seen as the side's biggest strengths, but Luiz Felipe Scolari's side ending up conceding 14 goals over the course of seven matches.

WHO SAID WHAT

"There is nothing I can criticise the players for"
Brazil coach **Luiz Felipe Scolari**

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)

Julio Cesar; Maicon, Silva, Luiz, Maxwell; Gustavo (Fernandinho 46), Paulinho (Hernanes 55); Ramires (Hulk 72), Willian, Oscar; Jo
■ Silva, Fernandinho, Oscar

HOLLAND (3-5-2)

Cillessen (Vorm 90); De Vrij, Vlaar, Martins Indi; Kuyt, Wijnaldum, De Guzman, Claise (Veltman 90), Blind (Janmaat 70); Robben, Van Persie
■ Robben, De Guzman

Referee: Haimoudi (Alg)

0-1

0-2

0-5

0-3

0-4

0-6

0-7

1-7

June 12, 2014

BRAZIL (0) 1
Oscar 90

GERMANY (5) 7
Muller 11, Klose 23, Kroos 24, 26, Khedira 29, Schurrle 69, 79

Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte — Att: 58,141

TOTAL HUMILIATION
On an historic night in Belo Horizonte, Germany were as ruthless as the hosts were poor, utterly humiliating Brazil in the most one-sided semi-final ever seen at the World Cup. On the final whistle, the Brazilian crowd applauded Germany off the pitch.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 An unmarked Thomas Muller volleyed in a corner.
0-2 Muller teed up Miroslav Klose, who beat Julio Cesar after the keeper saved his first effort.
0-3 Toni Kroos rifled home Philipp Lahm's cross.
0-4 Fernandinho lost possession to Muller who fed Kroos to score.
0-5 Sami Khedira exchanged passes with Mesut Ozil before scoring.
0-6 Andre Schurrle scored from close range.
0-7 Schurrle smashed a shot in off the bar.
1-7 Oscar fired beyond Manuel Neuer.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Toni Kroos (Germany)
He scored twice in the first half and played a part in a number of his side's other goals.

Agony...suspended skipper Thiago Silva consoles a tearful David Luiz

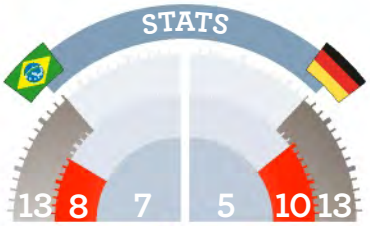
MATTER OF FACT
Klose set World Cup records as the first man to play in four semi-finals and with his 16th finals goal.

TALKING POINT
Brazil had not lost a competitive game on home soil since 1975. A country haunted by defeat to Uruguay in the final match of the 1950 World Cup must now come to terms with suffering the worst semi-final defeat in the history of the competition.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was the worst day of my life"
Brazil coach **Luis Felipe Scolari**

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)
Cesar; Maicon, Luiz, Dante, Marcelo; Fernandinho (Paulinho 46), Gustavo; Hulk (Ramires 46), Oscar, Bernard; Fred (Willian 69)
■ Dante

GERMANY (4-2-3-1)
Neuer; Lahm, Boateng, Hummels (Mertesacker 46), Howedes; Khedira (Draxler 76), Schweinsteiger; Muller, Kroos, Ozil; Klose (Schurrle 57)
Referee: Rodriguez (Mex)



Goal attempts ■ On target ■ Corners

Crucial...Mascherano foils Robben with a fine challenge

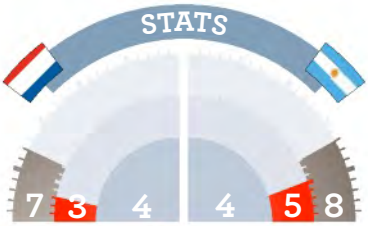
Wide eyed...Romero after saving Wesley Sneijder's spot-kick

June 12, 2014

HOLLAND (0) 0 — ARGENTINA (0) 0

aet; Argentina won 4-2 on penalties

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo — Att: 63,267



WHO SAID WHAT

"It's the most terrible scenario, to lose on penalties. At the very least we were equal with them, if not the better team. It's a big disappointment"
Holland coach **Louis Van Gaal**

HOLLAND (5-3-2)

Cillessen; Kuyt, De Vrij, Vlaar, Martins Indi (Janmaat 46), Blind; Wijnaldum, De Jong (Clasie 62), Sneijder; Robben, Van Persie (Huntelaar 96)
Martins Indi, Huntelaar

ARGENTINA (4-2-3-1)

Romero; Zabaleta, Garay, Demichelis, Rojo; Biglia, Mascherano; Perez (Palacio 81), Messi, Lavezzi (Rodriguez 101); Higuain (Aguero 82)
Demichelis

Referee: Cakir (Tur)

DUTCH DENIED BY ROMERO

Argentina reached their first World Cup Final for 24 years with a victory on penalties after a disappointing game had ended goalless over 120 minutes. Maxi Rodriguez converted the decisive spot-kick after Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero had saved from Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder.

MAN OF THE MATCH

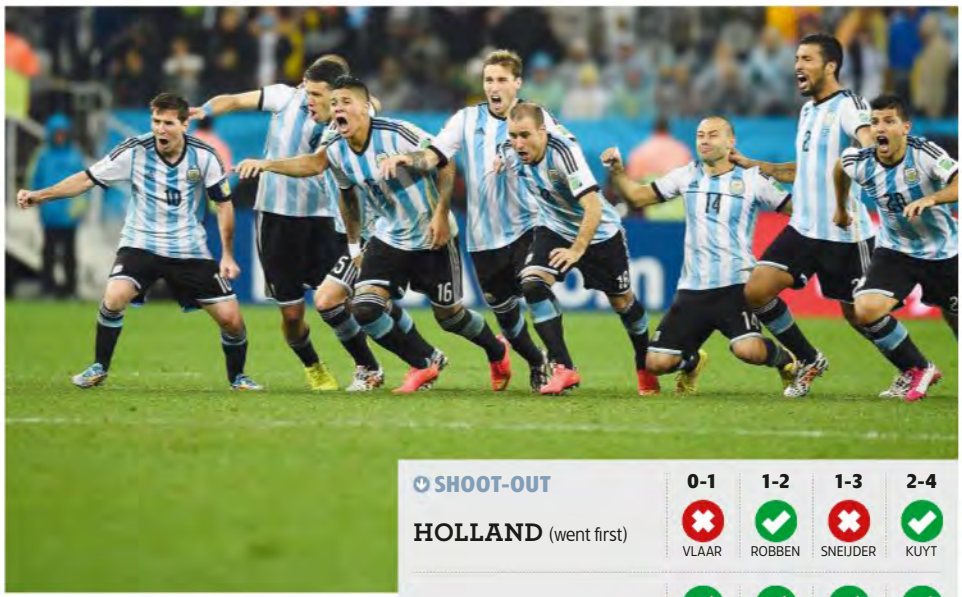
Javier Mascherano (Argentina)
Typified the defensive rigour which dominated the match. His challenge on Arjen Robben in the closing minutes put an end to Holland's best spell of the match and sent the game into extra time.

MATTER OF FACT

Jasper Cillessen, who was substituted before Holland's last penalty shoot-out, has never saved a spot-kick in his professional career.

TALKING POINT

The deliberately cautious approach of Holland ensured that there were very few chances over the course of the 120 minutes. Coach Louis Van Gaal revealed after the game that two players had refused to take their side's first penalty.



Charge to glory...Argentina start to celebrate after Rodriguez clinches the shoot-out win

SHOOT-OUT

	0-1	1-2	1-3	2-4
HOLLAND (went first)	✗ VLAAR	✓ ROBBEN	✗ SNEIJDER	✓ KUYT
ARGENTINA	✓ MESSI	✓ GARAY	✓ AGUERO	✓ RODRIGUEZ

Stopped...France's Blaise Matuidi is halted by Toni Kroos (left) and Klose

June 12, 2014

FRANCE (0) 0 — GERMANY (1) 1

Hummels 13

Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro — Att: 74,240

HUMMELS THE HERO

Germany reached their 13th World Cup semi-final courtesy of an early Mats Hummels goal, with France heading out of the competition after failing to find an extra gear when the pressure was on.

KEY MOMENTS

0-1 Hummels held off Raphael Varane to head home Toni Kroos' whipped free-kick.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Mat Hummels (Germany)
Ruled out of the last-16 game against Algeria with a fever, he returned to score the only goal of the game and provide a solid presence throughout in central defence.

MATTER OF FACT

Germany became the first team to reach four successive World Cup semi-finals.

TALKING POINT

For all the pre-tournament talk about Germany's flirtation with *tiki-taka* and false nines, they went back to basics, with Philipp Lahm at full-back, Miroslav Klose at centre-forward, and Bastian Schweinsteiger and Sami Khedira restored to central midfield.

Winner...Hummels (centre) guides his header over Hugo Lloris

WHO SAID WHAT

"I don't think there was a huge gap between the teams. We had some chances, but we weren't as efficient or as lucky as we could have been"
France coach **Didier Deschamps**

FRANCE (4-3-3)

Lloris; Debuchy, Varane, Sakho (Koscielny 72), Evra; Pogba, Cabaye (Remy 73), Matuidi; Valbuena (Giroud 85), Benzema, Griezmann

GERMANY (4-2-3-1)

Neuer; Lahm, Boateng, Hummels, Howedes; Khedira, Schweinsteiger; Muller, Kroos (Kramer 90), Ozil (Gotze 83); Klose (Schurrle 68)
Khedira, Schweinsteiger
Referee: Pitana (Arg)

Out...Neymar is comforted by James Rodriguez and Marcelo after the injury that ended his World Cup

BRAZIL (1) 2
Silva 7, Luiz 69

COLOMBIA (0) 1
Rodriguez pen 80

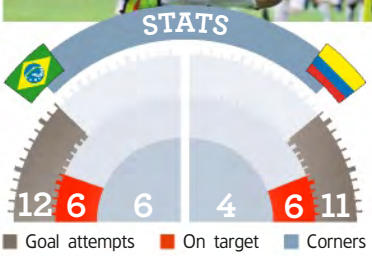
Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza — Att: 60,342

VICTORY AT A COST
Central defenders Thiago Silva and David Luiz scored the goals that put Brazil in the last four, but victory came at a cost as they lost their captain and their best player for the semi-finals.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Neymar's inswinging corner from the left was missed by everyone – except Silva at the back post who scored with his knee.
2-0 Luiz thundered home a free-kick from 30 yards after James Rodriguez had fouled Hulk.
2-1 With his sixth goal of the tournament, Rodriguez scored from the penalty spot after keeper Julio Cesar had brought down substitute Carlos Bacca.

MAN OF THE MATCH
David Luiz (Brazil)
An early mazy run set the tone for a vibrant first-half performance and he capped a fine display with a wonderful free-kick, which ultimately decided the game.

Flying the flag... Luiz celebrates his spectacular goal from a free-kick



MATTER OF FACT
A total of 54 fouls were committed in the match, with Brazil guilty of 31 – their highest in a game at the finals since records began in 1966.

TALKING POINT
Juan Zuniga's challenge on Neymar late in the game put the 22-year-old out of the World Cup with a fractured vertebrae. Brazil's captain Thiago Silva was also ruled out of the semi-finals after picking up his second yellow card of the competition.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Neymar, rest assured that our group loves you and [will] win this title for you. You were and continue to be the ace and the soul of our team"
Brazil centre-forward **Fred**

BRAZIL (4-1-3-2)
Cesar; Maicon, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo; Fernandinho; Oscar, Paulinho (Hernanes 86), Hulk (Ramires 83); Fred, Neymar (Henrique 88).
■ Silva, Cesar

COLOMBIA (5-4-1)
Ospina; Zuniga, Zapata, Sanchez, Yepes, Armero; Cuadrado (Quintero 80), Guarin, Rodriguez, Ibarbo (Ramos 45); Gutierrez (Bacca 70)
■ Rodriguez, Yepes
Referee: Carballo (Spa)

Triumphant...Higuain celebrates giving Argentina the lead

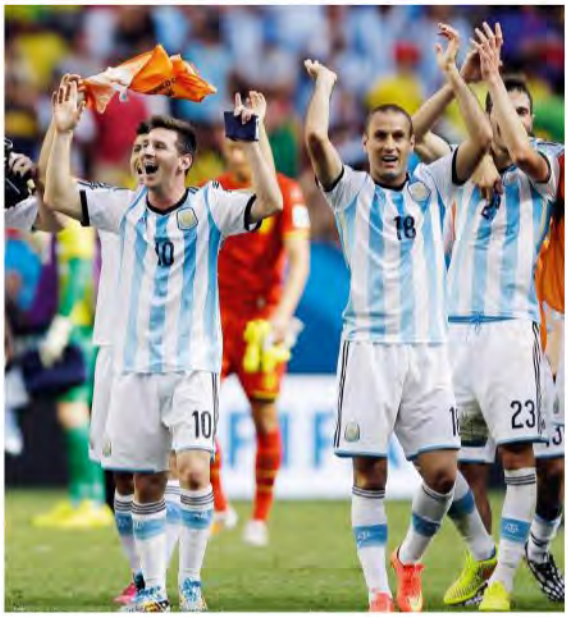
Determination... Zabaleta clears a Belgium attack

June 12, 2014

ARGENTINA (1) 1 — BELGIUM (0) 0

Higuain 8

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia — Att: 68,551



Joy...Messi (no10) leads his team-mates in saluting their fans

RAISING THEIR GAME

With five wins in five games, Argentina reached the semi-finals. It was no five-star performance, but they raised their game when it mattered most after Gonzalo Higuain gave them an early lead.

KEY MOMENTS

1-0 Higuain thumped home after the ball bounced off a defender as Angel Di Maria tried to play in Pablo Zabaleta.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Gonzalo Higuain (Argentina)
A frustrated spectator for most of his side's previous matches, he took his goal with confidence and impressed overall.

MATTER OF FACT

Lionel Messi played his 91st international, putting him level with Diego Maradona as Argentina's sixth most-capped player.

TALKING POINT

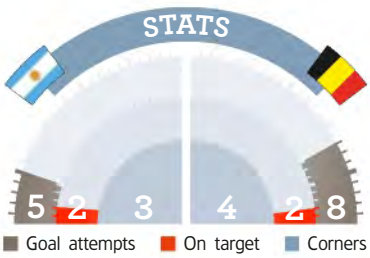
Belgium, for all their talent, failed to rise to the occasion, with key players, notably Eden Hazard, not living up to their billing. Coach Marc Wilmots challenged Hazard to prove he is among the world's best players, but he was replaced by Nacer Chadli during the game.

WHO SAID WHAT

"He was our water in the desert. When the terrain was dry, he, once again, gave us a chance to breathe fresh air"
Argentina coach **Alejandro Sabella** on Messi

ARGENTINA (4-2-3-1)
Romero; Zabaleta, Demichelis, Garay, Basanta; Biglia, Mascherano; Di Maria (Perez 33), Messi, Lavezzi (Palacios 70); Higuain (Gago 80)
■ Biglia

BELGIUM (4-1-4-1)
Courtois; Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vertonghen; Witsel; Mirallas (Mertens 60), Fellaini, De Bruyne, Hazard (Chadli 74); Origi (Lukaku 59)
■ Hazard, Alderweireld
Referee: Rizzoli (Ita)



Super sub...Krul saves Michael Umana's penalty to send Holland through

June 12, 2014
July 5, 2014

HOLLAND (0) 0 — COSTA RICA (0) 0

aet; Holland won 4-3 on penalties

Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador — Att: 51,179

KRUL LUCK FOR "*TICOS*"

Louis Van Gaal brought on substitute goalkeeper Tim Krul in the final minute of extra time and he saved two spot-kicks in a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Arjen Robben (Holland)

Despite Holland's failure to score over 120 minutes, the Bayern Munich winger was a constant menace to Costa Rica's defence.

MATTER OF FACT

Ravshan Irmatov of Uzbekistan became the first referee to take charge of nine World Cup games.

TALKING POINT

Van Gaal's tactical switches and substitutions had worked well in previous games. But the introduction of an extra forward failed to work in regulation time as Costa Rica defended with incredible spirit. He did not use his second sub, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, until the second half of extra time, while he waited until the end of extra time before introducing his final sub, Krul.

Tumbler...Costa Rica defenders gang up to send Robben flying

WHO SAID WHAT

"We all thought Tim was the best keeper to stop penalties. He is taller and has a longer reach"

Holland coach **Louis Van Gaal**

HOLLAND (3-4-3)

Cillessen (Krul 120); De Vrij, Vlaar, Martins Indi (Huntelaar 106); Kuyt, Wijnaldum, Sneijder, Blind; Robben, Van Persie, Depay (Lens 76)

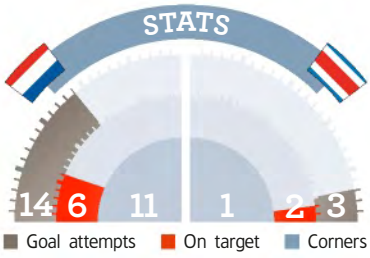
■ Martins Indi

COSTA RICA (5-2-3)

Navas; Gamboa (Myrie 78), Acosta, Gonzalez, Umana, Diaz; Tejeda (Cubero 97), Borges; Campbell (Urena 65), Ruiz, Bolanos

■ Diaz, Umana, Gonzalez, Acosta

Referee: Irmatov (Uzb)



June 28, 2014

BRAZIL (1)1
Luiz 18

CHILE (1)1
Sanchez 32

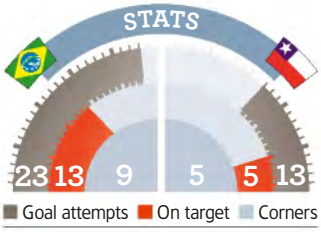
aet; score 1-1 at 90 minutes
Brazil won 3-2 on penalties

Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte
Att: 57,714

NEYMAR SPOT ON
After Chile sub Mauricio Pinilla hit the bar in the last minute of extra-time, Neymar held his nerve to score the winning spot-kick in the penalty shoot-out.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Thiago Silva flicked on Neymar's corner and David Luiz bundled it in at the far post.
1-1 Eduardo Vargas took advantage of a Brazilian mix-up at a throw-in and squared for Alexis Sanchez to score.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Julio Cesar (Brazil)
Produced one of the saves of the tournament to deny Chile in the second half and his two saves in the penalty shoot-out were instrumental in Brazil's success.



MATTER OF FACT
Brazil's pass completion of 68 per cent was their worst at a World Cup finals since 1966.

TALKING POINT
Chile have now reached the knockout stage four times – and on each occasion they have gone out to Brazil. This time they took their South American rivals to the wire, but the woodwork and Cesar denied them a first-ever victory on Brazilian soil.

Decisive...Brazil celebrate after Gonzalo Jara's penalty for Chile hit the post

Heroic...Cesar managed to save two penalties in the shoot-out

WHO SAID WHAT
"If we have to go to penalties again, we will end up killing someone"
Brazil captain **Thiago Silva** admitted the pressure was getting to his team-mates

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)
Cesar; Alves, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo; Fernandinho (Ramires 72), Gustavo; Oscar (Willian 105), Neymar, Hulk; Fred (Jo 64)
Hulk, Gustavo, Jo, Alves

CHILE (3-4-1-2)
Bravo; Silva, Medel (Rojas 108), Jara; Isla, Diaz, Aranguiz, Mena; Vidal (Pinilla 87); Sanchez, Vargas (Gutierrez 57)
Mena, Silva
Referee: Webb (Eng)

June 28, 2014

COLOMBIA (1)2
Rodriguez 28, 50

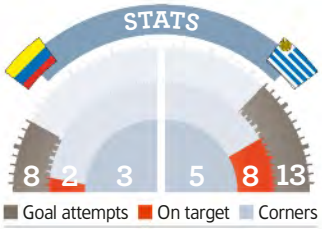
URUGUAY (0)0

Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
Att: 73,804

RODRIGUEZ THE STAR TURN
A double from James Rodriguez saw off Uruguay, who were unable to get past keeper David Ospina despite switching to a four-man defence as they chased the game.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Rodriguez trapped the ball on his chest as he turned and unleashed an unstoppable volley.
2-0 Juan Cuadrado nodded back Pablo Armero's cross for Rodriguez to put home.

MAN OF THE MATCH
James Rodriguez (Colombia)
Capped a brilliant performance with a fantastic opening goal.



MATTER OF FACT
Rodriguez was the first player to score in the first four games of a World Cup since Brazil's Ronaldo and Rivaldo in 2002.

TALKING POINT
Many predicted that Colombia would struggle without Radamel Falcao, their key goalscorer from the qualifying campaign. But against Uruguay they won with a wonderful individual goal from Rodriguez and a fine team effort for the second.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We are making history"
Rodriguez after Colombia made the quarter-finals for the first time

COLOMBIA (4-2-3-1)
Ospina; Zuniga, Zapata, Yepes, Armero; Aguilar, Sanchez; Cuadrado (Guarin 79), Rodriguez (Ramos 83), Martinez; Gutierrez (Mejia 65)
Armero

URUGUAY (5-3-2)
Muslera; M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, Caceres, A Pereira (Ramirez 52); Gonzalez (Hernandez 65), Arevalo Rios, Rodriguez; Forlan (Stuani 52), Cavani
Gimenez, Lugano
Referee: Kuipers (Hol)

Brilliant... Rodriguez scored one of the goals of the tournament against Uruguay

June 29, 2014

HOLLAND (0)2
Sneijder 88, Huntelaar pen 90+4

MEXICO (0)1
Dos Santos 48

Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza
Att: 58,817

DUTCH LAST-GASP WINNER
Having led from early in the second half, Mexico were beaten by two late goals – including a controversial penalty awarded to Arjen Robben in injury time – and went out of the finals in the last 16 for a sixth consecutive tournament.

KEY MOMENTS

0-1 Giovani Dos Santos clipped a shot from long range past keeper Jasper Cillessen.

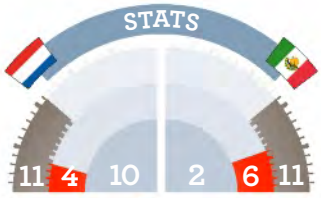
1-1 Wesley Sneijder fired home a sweetly struck volley from a well-worked corner.

2-1 After Rafael Marquez was judged to have tripped Robben, substitute Klaas-Jan Huntelaar calmly dispatched the penalty.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Arjen Robben (Holland)

The flying winger had been lucky to escape a yellow card for twice diving under a challenge in the Mexican area, but over the course of the game he was Holland's biggest attacking threat and won the penalty that ensured his country's dramatic passage to the quarter-finals.



Impact...sub Huntelaar wheels away after his winning spot-kick

MATTER OF FACT

Sneijder became Holland's record appearance holder at World Cups, playing in his 15th finals game.

TALKING POINT

Louis Van Gaal gambled by withdrawing Robin Van Persie but it paid off as substitute Huntelaar won the game in dramatic fashion.

WHO SAID WHAT

"The one at the end was a clear penalty, but I have to admit there was an incident in the first half where I did dive"

Arjen Robben after the game

Brave...Hector Herrera puts his head in where it hurts against Holland

HOLLAND (3-5-2)

Cillessen; De Vrij, Vlaar, Blind; Verhaegh (Depay 56), Wijnaldum, Sneijder, De Jong (Martins Indi 9), Kuyt; Robben, Van Persie (Huntelaar 76)

MEXICO (5-3-2)

Ochoa; Aguilar, Rodriguez, Marquez, Moreno (Reyes 46), Layun; Herrera, Salcido, Guardado; Dos Santos (Aquino 61), Peralta (Hernandez 75)

■ Aguilar, Marquez, Guardado

Referee: Proenca (Por)

June 29, 2014

COSTA RICA Ruiz 52	(0)1
GREECE Papastathopoulos 90	(0)1

aet; score 1-1 at 90 minutes

Costa Rica won 5-3 on penalties

Arena Pernambuco, Recife
Att: 41,242

COSTA RICA CARRY ON

Despite a dramatic last-minute equaliser, 10-man Costa Rica overcame Greece on penalties as Theofanis Gekas missed his spot-kick.

KEY MOMENTS

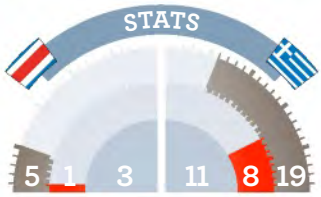
1-0 Bryan Ruiz's first-time shot took the Greece defence by surprise.

1-1 Sokratis Papastathopoulos scored after Keylor Navas palmed away a shot from close range.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Keylor Navas (Costa Rica)

The goalkeeper denied Greece on several occasions and made the crucial save that won the shoot-out.



MATTER OF FACT

Giorgos Karagounis won a record extending 139th Greek cap before his international retirement.

TALKING POINT

Suggestions that exhausted players would be unable to perform in the shoot-out proved unfounded, with all nine penalties on target and only one – from the unfortunate Gekas – failing to find the back of the net.

WHO SAID WHAT

"We practised penalties before and we had studied the opposition and that's why we scored 100 per cent"

Costa Rica coach **Jorge Luis Pinto**

COSTA RICA (5-4-1)

Navas; Gamboa (Acosta 77), Duarte, Gonzalez, Umana, Diaz; Ruiz, Tejeda (Cubero 66), Borges, Bolanos (Brenes 83); Campbell

■ Duarte (x2), Tejeda, Granados (unused sub), Ruiz, Navas

■ Duarte 66

GREECE (4-3-3)

Karnezis; Torosidis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Holebas; Maniatis (Katsouranis 78), Karagounis, Samaris (Mitroglou 59); Salpingidis (Gekas 69), Christodoulopoulos, Samaras

■ Samaris, Manolas

Referee: Williams (Aus)

Spot on...Costa Rica's run continues as they eliminate Greece on penalties

June 30, 2014

FRANCE (0)2
Pogba 79, Yobo og 90+2

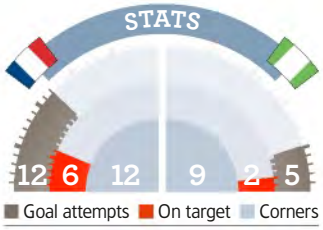
NIGERIA (0)0

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia
Att: 67,882

TOUGH ON NIGERIA
A laboured "*Les Bleus*" saw off spirited underdogs with two second-half goals that left Nigeria coach Stephen Keshi complaining about tough tackling from the French.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Vincent Enyeama's mistake from a corner gave Paul Pogba a simple header.
2-0 Antoine Griezmann forced Joseph Yobo into conceding an own goal.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Paul Pogba (France)
Scored France's breakthrough goal with a crucial header. Earlier, his volley brought a stunning save from Victor Enyeama.



MATTER OF FACT
Nigeria have only won one of their last 12 World Cup matches, losing eight and drawing three.

TALKING POINT
France looked a far better side after Olivier Giroud was replaced by Antoine Griezmann, who went out on the left of Didier Deschamps' attacking trio, allowing Karim Benzema to revert to the centre.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I think he was biased. This is, for me, the first time I will speak about the referee in my life as a coach, but it wasn't good"
Nigeria's **Stephen Keshi**

FRANCE (4-3-3)
Lloris; Debuchy, Varane, Koscielny, Evra; Pogba, Cabaye, Matuidi; Valbuena (Sissoko 90+4), Giroud (Griezmann 62), Benzema
Matuidi

NIGERIA (4-2-3-1)
Enyeama; Ambrose, Omeruo, Yobo, Oshaniwa; Onazi (Gabriel 59), Mikel; Odemwingie, Moses (Nwofor 89), Musa; Emenike
Referee: Geiger (USA)

June 30, 2014

GERMANY (0)2
Schurrle 92, Ozil 120

ALGERIA (0)1
Djabou 120+1

aet; score at 90 mins 0-0

Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre
Att: 43,063

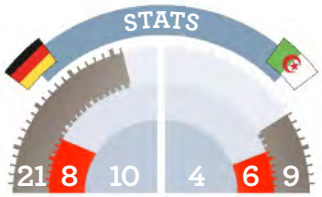
GERMANY RUN CLOSE
Algeria caused all sorts of problems for a jittery German side before succumbing to goals from substitute Andre Schurrle and Mesut Ozil.

Competitive...Ahmed Musa (left) and Mathieu Debuchy

KESHI QUITS
Stephen Keshi resigned as coach of Nigeria following their World Cup elimination.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 After full-back Aissa Mandi lost the ball on the right flank, Thomas Muller drove forward and crossed for Schurrle to flick the ball home with his heel.
2-0 Ozil thumped the ball in after Schurrle's shot hit Essaid Belkalem on the goalline.
2-1 Abdelmoumene Djabou volleyed a late consolation from Sofiane Feghouli's cross.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Rais M'Bolhi (Algeria)
The goalkeeper typified the energy and determination with which his side competed against opponents who were clear favourites to reach the next round.



MATTER OF FACT
Germany avoided defeat for the first time ever against Algeria, having lost both of their previous encounters, including their meeting in the 1982 World Cup.

TALKING POINT
Germany's high defensive line was caught time and again by the ball over the top and the pace of Algeria's attacking players. Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was forced to operate virtually as a sweeper behind a backline of four players who all play their club football in central defence.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was a victory of willpower. We didn't play well in the first half – we had major problems – but the important thing was that we got through. You cannot always play fantastically"
Germany coach **Joachim Low**

GERMANY (4-2-3-1)
Neuer; Mustafi (Khedira 70), Mertesacker, Boateng, Howedes; Lahm; Ozil, Schweinsteiger (Kramer 109), Kroos, Gotze (Schurrle 46); Muller
Lahm

ALGERIA (4-2-3-1)
M'Bolhi; Mandi, Belkalem, Halliche (Bougherra 97), Ghoulam; Mostefa, Lacen; Feghouli, Taider (Brahimi 78), Soudani (Djabou 100); Slimani
Halliche
Referee: Ricci (Bra)

July 1, 2014

ARGENTINA (0)1
Di Maria 118

SWITZERLAND (0)0

aet; score at 90 mins 0-0

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 62,103

Agony...Dzemaili sees his last-minute header hit a post against Argentina

Strong...Algeria skipper Rafik Halliche makes his presence felt

Aerial attack... Marouane Fellaini causes problems for the USA

POST SAVES ARGENTINA

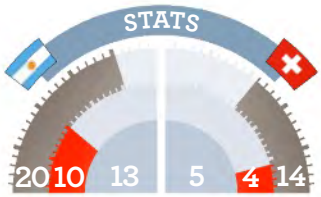
Argentina progressed with a goal three minutes from the end of extra time. Switzerland almost forced a penalty shoot-out but substitute Blerim Dzemaili's header hit a post in the closing moments, before the rebound hit him and went wide.

KEY MOMENTS

1-0 Lionel Messi burst into the penalty area before setting up Angel Di Maria to sidefoot home.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Lionel Messi (Argentina)
The little man did it again, dragging his side single-handedly into the quarter-finals. Well marshalled for most of the match, he still found space to set up Di Maria's winner.



MATTER OF FACT

Di Maria lost possession 51 times during the 120 minutes.

TALKING POINT

Switzerland attacked Argentina with verve in the final minutes following Di Maria's goal. Had they done so earlier in the game they might have pulled off one of the shocks of the tournament. It was a sad end to Ottmar Hitzfeld's coaching career.

WHO SAID WHAT

"It has been a great honour and I am proud to say goodbye to the Swiss team with my heart full of emotions"
Switzerland coach **Ottmar Hitzfeld**, who retired after the game

ARGENTINA (4-2-3-1)

Romero; Zabaleta, Fernandez, Garay, Rojo (Basanta 105+1); Gago (Biglia 106), Mascherano; Lavezzi (Palacio 74), Messi, Di Maria; Higuain
Rojo, Di Maria, Garay

SWITZERLAND (4-2-3-1)

Benaglio; Lichtsteiner, Schar, Djourou, Rodriguez; Behrami, Inler; Xhaka (Fernandes 66), Shaqiri, Mehmedi (Dzemaili 113); Drmic (Seferovic 82)
Xhaka, Fernandes
Referee: Eriksson (Swe)

July 1, 2014

BELGIUM (0)2
De Bruyne 93, Lukaku 105

USA (0)1
Green 107

aet; score after 90 mins 0-0

Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador
Att: 51,227

WINNERS ALL THROUGH

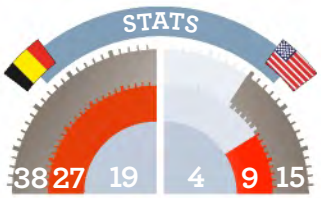
Having scored twice in the first period of extra time, Belgium saw off a spirited USA fightback to make this World Cup the first in which only group winners advanced to the quarter-finals.

KEY MOMENTS

1-0 Romelu Lukaku broke away to set up Kevin De Bruyne.
2-0 De Bruyne returned the compliment, playing in Lukaku.
2-1 Green's volley set up a grandstand finish.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Tim Howard (USA)
Performed heroically to keep Belgium at bay in what would be his last international should he decide to retire.



MATTER OF FACT

As the stats show, Belgium created a vast amount of chances – leading Howard to make a World Cup record 15 saves in one game.

TALKING POINT

If football does not take off in the United States after this match, it is unlikely that it ever will. USA coach Jurgen Klinsmann's side were outclassed at times, but they showed endless reserves of character to take the match into extra time and push Belgium to the limit.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Every player on the field made their country proud with this performance in this World Cup"
USA coach **Jurgen Klinsmann**

BELGIUM (4-2-3-1)

Courtois; Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vertonghen; Fellaini, Witsel; Mertens (Mirallas 60), De Bruyne, Hazard (Chadli 111); Origi (Lukaku 91)
Kompany

USA (4-5-1)

Howard; Johnson (Yedlin 32), Gonzalez, Besler, Beasley; Zusi (Wondolowski 72), Jones, Bradley, Cameron, Bedoya (Green 105+2); Dempsey
Cameron
Referee: Haimoudi (Alg)

Appealing...Fred claims a penalty after going down under pressure from Lovren

June 12, 2014

BRAZIL (1) 3
Neymar 29, pen 71, Oscar 90+1

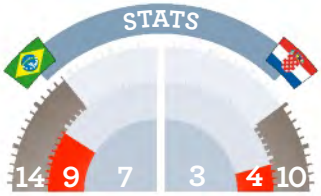
CROATIA (1) 1
Marcelo og 11

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 62,103

WINNING START FOR HOSTS
Luiz Felipe Scolari's side came from behind to win the opening game of the 2014 tournament and maintain the record of no host nation having ever lost its first game in any of the 21 finals.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Marcelo own goal after Nikica Jelavic missed Ivica Olic's cross.
1-1 Neymar's shot from the edge of the area went in off a post.
2-1 Neymar scored a penalty.
3-1 Oscar run and shot after a Brazil counter-attack.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Neymar (Brazil)
With the hopes of a nation resting on his shoulders, he scored twice on his World Cup debut despite fears that the occasion might overwhelm him.



MATTER OF FACT
At 22, Neymar became the youngest Brazilian to win 50 caps.

TALKING POINT
The record books will show a 3-1 win for Brazil but this was not a convincing performance by the tournament favourites. Croatia will feel they might have got something out of the game had it not been for referee Yuichi Nishimura's contentious decision to award a second-half penalty when Brazil striker Fred collapsed under minimal contact from Dejan Lovren.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It's a scandal – this referee should not be at this World Cup"
Croatia defender **Dejan Lovren** on the Japanese official

Rebound...Peralta follows up after keeper Itandje saves from Dos Santos (top right)

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)
Cesar; Alves, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo; Paulinho (Hernanes 63), Gustavo; Oscar, Neymar (Ramires 88), Hulk (Bernard 68); Fred
Neymar, Gustavo

CROATIA (4-2-3-1)
Pletikosa; Srna, Corluka, Lovren, Vrsaljko; Modric, Rakitic; Perisic, Kovacic (Brozovic 61), Olic; Jelavic (Rebic 78)
Corluka, Lovren
Referee: Nishimura (Jap)

June 13, 2014

MEXICO (0) 1
Peralta 61

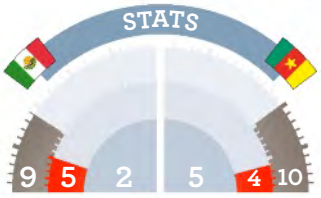
CAMEROON (0) 0

Arena das Dunas, Natal
Att: 39,216

THIRD TIME LUCKY
After Giovani Dos Santos had two goals controversially ruled out for Mexico before the break, Miguel Herrera's side eventually triumphed with a second-half goal from Oribe Peralta.

KEY MOMENT
1-0 Peralta followed up after Dos Santos' shot was parried.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Oribe Peralta (Mexico)
In a match high on controversy but low on quality, the striker's eye for goal stood out.



MATTER OF FACT
Despite having more shots than Mexico, Cameroon didn't manage one on target until the 90th minute.

TALKING POINT
The decision to rule Dos Santos' two goals offside meant Mexico had to struggle harder for a win than they otherwise might have done.

WHO SAID WHAT
"At no time did we think about the referee during half-time. Never at any time did the team lose concentration"
Mexico coach **Miguel Herrera**

MEXICO (3-5-2)
Ochoa; Rodriguez, Marquez, Moreno; Aguilar, Herrera (Salcido 90+1), Vazquez, Guardado (Fabian 69), Layun; Dos Santos, Peralta (Hernandez 74)
Moreno

CAMEROON (4-4-1-1)
Itandje; Djeugoue (Nounkeu 46), N'Koulou, Chedjou, Assou-Ekotto;

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
MEXICO	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
CROATIA	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
CAMEROON	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

GROUP A

Busy...Mexico keeper Ochoa made six saves against Brazil

Acrobatic...sub Pierre Webo in the thick of things against Croatia

Moukandjo, Song (Webo 79), Mbia, Enoh; Choupo-Moting; Eto'o
Nounkeu
Referee: Rodian (Col)

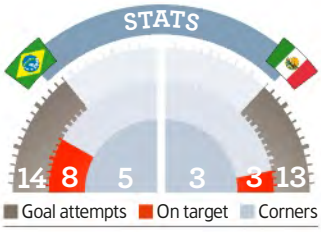
June 17, 2014

BRAZIL (0) 0
MEXICO (0) 0

Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza
Att: 60,342

BRAZIL DRAW A BLANK
Brazil struggled to break down Mexico, who had more than their fair share of chances to win.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Guillermo Ochoa (Mexico)
The keeper may have made several important saves, but that doesn't mean Brazil had it all their own way.



MATTER OF FACT
Brazil's out-of-sorts and under pressure centre-forward Fred only completed eight of the 16 passes that he attempted against Mexico.

TALKING POINT
Although he won Brazil's penalty in the opening game, Fred had done little else and was anonymous here. The big question was how much longer would coach Luiz Felipe Scolari stand by him?

WHO SAID WHAT
"I can't remember a goalkeeper performing like that in a World Cup"
Mexico coach **Miguel Herrera** on Ochoa

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)
Cesar; Alves, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo; Paulinho, Gustavo; Ramires (Bernard 45), Oscar (Willian 84), Neymar; Fred (Jo 68)
Ramires, Silva

MEXICO (5-3-2)
Ochoa; Aguilar, Rodriguez, Marquez, Moreno, Layun; Herrera (Fabian 76), Vazquez, Guardado; Dos Santos (Jimenez 84), Peralta (Hernandez 74)
Aguilar, Vazquez
Referee: Cakir (Tur)

June 18, 2014

CAMEROON (0) 0
CROATIA (1) 4
Olic 11, Perisic 48, Mandzukic 61, 73

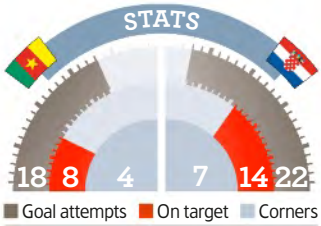
Arena da Amazonia, Manaus
Att: 39,982

CAMEROON GO OUT
With their all-time leading scorer Samuel Eto'o ruled out with a knee injury, Cameroon were eliminated from the competition after two games, without scoring a goal.

Crowded...Mexico defend a set-piece against the hosts in Fortaleza

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Ivica Olic scored from close range.
RED CARD Alex Song was dismissed for violent conduct after an off-the-ball incident with Mario Mandzukic.
0-2 Ivan Perisic fooled Charles Itandje at his near post.
0-3 Mandzukic headed home a corner unchallenged.
0-4 Mandzukic followed up after Itandje spilt a shot from Eduardo.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ivan Perisic (Croatia)
An outstanding performance, he created the opening goal with a wonderful pass to Olic and then capitalised on a poor goalkick to score Croatia's second.



MATTER OF FACT
Alex Song is not the only member of his family to have seen red at the World Cup – his uncle, Rigobert Song, was sent off against Brazil in 1994 and Chile in 1998.

TALKING POINT
While Croatia had looked a very well organised side in their opening game, with Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic providing a superbly balanced midfield, the return from suspension of striker Mario Mandzukic offered much needed firepower to Niko Kovac's side.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I feel I have let my country and myself down. It was a stupid moment and I'm truly sorry. If I could do anything to take it back I would"
Cameroon's **Alex Song** on his red card

CAMEROON (4-1-4-1)
Itandje; Mbia, N'Koulou, Chedjou (Nounkeu 45,) Assou-Ekotto; Matip; Moukandjo, Song, Enoh, Choupo-Moting (Salli 75); Aboubakar (Webo 70)
Song 40

CROATIA (4-2-3-1)
Pletikosa; Srna, Corluka, Lovren, Pranjic; Modric, Rakitic; Perisic (Rebic 78), Sammir (Kovacic 72), Olic (Eduardo 69); Mandzukic
Eduardo
Referee: Proenca (Por)

Dominant...Francisco Rodriguez of Mexico climbs above Mandzukic of Croatia

June 23, 2014

CAMEROON (1) 1
Matip 26

BRAZIL (2) 4
Neymar 17, 35, Fred 49, Fernandinho 84

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia
Att: 69,112

HOSTS TOP GROUP

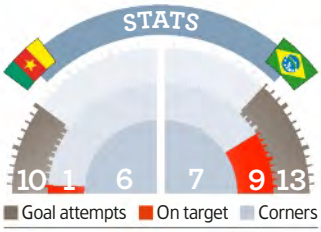
Brazil may have topped Group A after this 4-1 victory, but Cameroon were far trickier opponents than the scoreline suggests, with star player Neymar once again proving to be the host's saviour.

KEY MOMENT

0-1 Neymar side-footed home Luiz Gustavo's cross.
1-1 Joel Matip tapped in Allan Nyom's cross-shot.
1-2 Neymar shot home after a loose clearance.
1-3 Fred nodded home David Luiz's cross at the far post.
1-4 Fernandinho prodded home after a rapid interchange of passing.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Neymar (Brazil)
Substituted in the second half as a precaution after he went down with an apparent injury, but by then his work was done.



MATTER OF FACT

This was Brazil's 100th World Cup game, and Neymar's opener for his side was the 100th goal of this year's finals.

TALKING POINT

Brazil's jittery defence looked far from secure against Cameroon, suggesting they would be exposed by stronger opponents later in the competition.

WHO SAID WHAT

"There is no pressure. I've always said there is no pressure when you are making a dream come true"
Brazil's **Neymar**

CAMEROON (4-3-3)

Itandje; Nyom, N'Koulou, Matip, Bedimo; Mbia, Nguemo, Enoh; Choupo-Moting (Makoun 81), Aboubakar (Webo 72), Moukandjo (Salli 57)
Enoh, Salli, Mbia

BRAZIL (4-2-3-1)

Cesar; Alves, Silva, Luiz, Marcelo; Gustavo, Paulinho (Fernandinho 46); Hulk (Ramires 62), Oscar, Neymar (Willian 72); Fred
Referee: Eriksson (Swe)

June 23, 2014

CROATIA (0) 1
Perisic 87

MEXICO (0) 3
Marquez 72, Guardado 75, Hernandez 82

Arena Pernambuco, Recife
Att: 41,212

MEXICO TAKE SECOND

Mexico conceded their first goal of the tournament, but by then the game was wrapped up and qualification for the knockout stage assured.

KEY MOMENTS

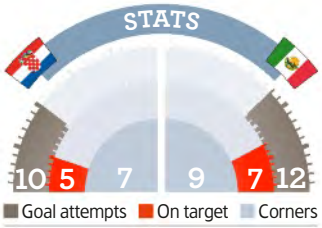
0-1 Rafael Marquez headed home a corner from the left.
0-2 Andres Guardado turned in Hector Herrera's cross.
0-3 Javier Hernandez scored at the far post after a flick-on from a corner.
1-3 Ivan Perisic scored from Ivan Rakatic's backheel.
RED CARD Ante Rebic was dismissed for an over-the-top challenge on Carlos Pena.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Rafael Marquez (Mexico)
Scored one, assisted another and repelled everything that Croatia threw at him. Was a classy and reassuring presence at the heart of the Mexican defence.

LOSING RUN
Cameroon's loss to Brazil was their seventh successive defeat at the World Cup finals.

SKIPPER'S FOUR IN A ROW
Mexico's Rafael Marquez became the first player to captain a side at four successive finals.



MATTER OF FACT

Mexico made it through to the knockout stage for a sixth successive World Cup.

TALKING POINT

One of Mexico's strengths was their team work, with coach Miguel Herrera naming the same starting XI for all three group games. However, a booking for Jose Juan Vasquez meant he missed the next game.

WHO SAID WHAT

"You could see how happy it made the fans. It was just like playing at home"
Mexico coach **Miguel Herrera**

CROATIA (4-3-3)

Pletikosa; Srna, Corluka, Lovren, Vrsaljko (Kovacic 58); Rakitic, Pranjic (Jelavic 74), Modric; Perisic, Mandzukic, Olic (Rebic 69)
Rakitic
Rebic 89

MEXICO (5-3-2)

Ochoa; Aguilar, Rodriguez, Marquez, Moreno, Layun; Herrera, Vazquez, Guardado (Fabian 84); Dos Santos (Hernandez 62), Peralta (Pena 79)
Marquez, Vazquez
Referee: Irmatov (Uzb)

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOLLAND	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
CHILE	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
SPAIN	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
AUSTRALIA	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

Joy...Van Persie celebrates with Van Gaal after his header v Spain

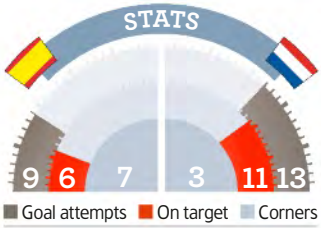
Class...Van Persie's superb headed goal against Spain

June 13, 2014

SPAIN (1)1
Alonso pen 27

HOLLAND (1)5
Van Persie 44, 74, Robben 52, 80, De Vrij 65

Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador
Att: 48,173



DUTCH REVENGE
In a rematch of the 2010 Final, Holland stunned the holders with a remarkable victory as Spain conceded five goals for the first time since they lost 6-2 to Scotland in June 1963. Spain's only comfort came with the knowledge that they had also lost their first game in South Africa, going down 1-0 to Switzerland, on their way to victory.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Xabi Alonso penalty after Stefan De Vrij fouled Diego Costa.
1-1 Robin Van Persie looped a header over Iker Casillas from Daley Blind's crossfield pass.
1-2 Blind was the supplier again as Robben finished.
1-3 De Vrij turned home a Wesley Sneijder free-kick from the left.
1-4 Van Persie tackled Casillas, who miscontrolled a backpass from Sergio Ramos, and slid the ball into an empty net.
1-5 Robben ran from his own half to latch on to Sneijder's through ball to round Casillas and score.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Arjen Robben (Holland)
Terrorised the Spain defence and, but for a wonderful stop by Casillas, could have finished the game with a well deserved hat-trick.

MATTER OF FACT
According to Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf*, Robben ran faster than any other player ever recorded, clocking 22.9mph, on his way to scoring the fifth goal.

TALKING POINT
Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque had argued before the finals that his side were not the *tiki-taka* Taliban of world football, stating: "We are not Talibans with just one way of playing." Given the scale and the manner of this defeat, some were interpreting this as the end of an era.

WHO SAID WHAT
"To be quite honest, I did not expect a scoreline like that"
Holland coach **Louis Van Gaal** wasn't alone on this one

SPAIN (4-3-3)
Casillas; Azpilicueta, Pique, Ramos, Alba; Xavi, Busquets, Alonso (Pedro 62); Silva (Fabregas 78), Costa (Torres 62), Iniesta
■ Casillas

HOLLAND (3-4-1-2)
Cillessen; Vlaar, De Vrij (Veltman 77), Martins Indi; Janmaat, De Guzman (Wijnaldum 62), De Jong, Blind; Sneijder; Robben, Van Persie (Lens 79)
■ De Guzman, De Vrij, Van Persie
Referee: Rizzoli (Ita)

June 13, 2014

CHILE (2)3
Sanchez 12, Valdivia 14, Beausejour 90+2

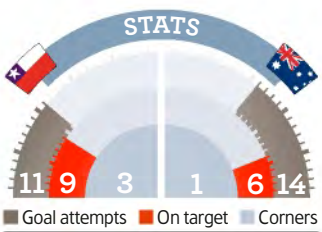
AUSTRALIA (1)1
Cahill 35

Arena Pantanal, Cuiaba
Att: 40,275

QUICK START
Although Chile went into a two-goal lead within a quarter of an hour, Australia pulled one back before the interval and Jorge Sampaoli's side had to endure an anxious second half before making the result certain in injury time.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Alexis Sanchez turned in Eduardo Vargas' header.
2-0 Jorge Valdivia beat Mat Ryan from the edge of the area.
2-1 Tim Cahill headed home a deep cross from Ivan Franjic.
3-1 Jean Beausejour pounced on Mauricio Pinilla's rebound.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Alexis Sanchez (Chile)
The Barcelona front runner opened the scoring for Chile and was at the heart of much of his side's best work throughout the game.



MATTER OF FACT
Tim Cahill became the first Australian to score at three separate World Cup finals.

TALKING POINT
Tipped by many as dark horses, Chile raced into a comfortable two-goal lead. However, as the game went on, a youthful Australia were able to expose the South Americans' defensive weaknesses, particularly at set-pieces.

WHO SAID WHAT
"They got in twice and punished us, but after that you could see their legs were going"
Australia midfielder **Tim Cahill**

CHILE (4-1-3-2)
Bravo; Isla, Medel, Jara, Mena; Diaz; Aranguiz, Valdivia (Beausejour 68), Vidal (Gutierrez 60); Sanchez, Vargas (Pinilla 88)
■ Aranguiz

AUSTRALIA (4-2-3-1)
Ryan; Franjic (McGowan 49), Wilkinson, Spiranovic, Davidson; Jedinak, Milligan; Leckie, Bresciano (Troisi 78), Oar (Halloran 69); Cahill
■ Cahill, Jedinak, Milligan
Referee: Doue (IvC)

Tussle..Gary Medel holds off Cahill

June 18, 2014

AUSTRALIA (1)2
Cahill 21, Jedinak pen 54

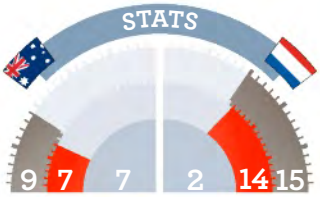
HOLLAND (1)3
Robben 20, Van Persie 58, Depay 68

Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre
Att: 42,877

BRAVE AUSSIES OUT
Despite an impressive effort from Australia in both of their games so far, two losses and Chile's defeat of Spain later in the evening sent Ange Postecoglou's side out.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Arjen Robben raced away from the halfway line to score with a shot into the far corner.
1-1 Tim Cahill unleashed a stunning left-foot volley to score via the underside of the crossbar.
2-1 Mile Jedinak scored from the spot after Daryl Janmaat handled.
2-2 Robin Van Persie sprang the offside trap to score from 10 yards.
2-3 Memphis Depay scored from 25 yards with a swerving right-foot shot.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Arjen Robben (Holland)
Statistically the most effective player on the pitch, he took his goal well and continued to be his side's most potent attacking weapon.



MATTER OF FACT
In just two games, Holland had scored as many goals (eight) at this World Cup as Spain scored in total when winning the competition in South Africa four years ago.

On fire...Robben turns away after opening the scoring

TALKING POINT
A booking for Van Persie, who scored his 11th goal in his last 10 internationals, meant he would miss the last group game but be available for the knockout stage.

WHO SAID WHAT
"In the second half we had more chances and the way the players came from behind was incredible. To recover and correct the situation showed a lot of mental strength"
Holland coach **Louis Van Gaal**

AUSTRALIA (4-2-3-1)
Ryan; McGowan, Wilkinson, Spiranovic, Davidson; Jedinak, McKay; Leckie, Bresciano (Bozanic 51), Oar (Taggart 77); Cahill (Halloran 68)
Cahill

HOLLAND (3-4-1-2)
Cillessen; De Vrij, Vlaar, Martins Indi (Depay 48); Janmaat, De Guzman (Wijnaldum 78), De Jong, Blind; Sneijder; Robben, Van Persie (Lens 87)
Van Persie
Referee: Haimoudi (Alg)

No way through...Iniesta is shut out by three Chile players

June 18, 2014

SPAIN (0)0

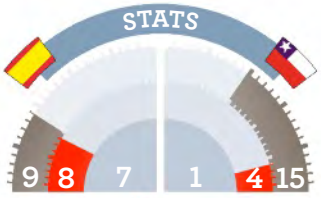
CHILE (2)2
Vargas 20, Aranguiz 43

Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
Att: 74,101

EARLY EXIT FOR HOLDERS
Spain dropped Xavi and Gerard Pique for a must-win game but still lost to an inspired Chile and went out of the tournament.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Chile worked the ball through midfield before Charles Aranguiz was able to set up Eduardo Vargas to score a fine team goal.
0-2 Aranguiz toe-poked the ball past Iker Casillas after the goal keeper failed to deal with a Chile free-kick.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Charles Aranguiz (Chile)
Created the first goal with a wonderful reverse pass to Vargas, while his finish for the second was a marvellous piece of improvisation.



MATTER OF FACT
Spain's passing accuracy of 81.7 per cent was their lowest in a World Cup game since their quarter-final defeat by South Korea in June 2002.

All over...Spain are heading out of the tournament after losing to Chile

Outnumbered...even tough Santi Cazorla finds his route to goal blocked by several Australians, Spain still scored three times

TALKING POINT
The decision to omit Xavi from the starting line-up seemed symbolic. He, more than any other player, embodied the tiki-taka style.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We didn't know how to maintain our hunger or that conviction needed to win a tournament. The joy and success we've experienced is over"
Spain's **Xabi Alonso**

SPAIN (4-2-3-1)
Casillas; Azpilicueta, Martinez, Ramos, Alba; Busquets, Alonso (Koke 45); Pedro (Cazorla 76), Silva, Iniesta: Costa (Torres 64)
■ Alonso

CHILE (5-1-3-1)
Bravo; Isla, Silva, Medel, Jara, Mena; Diaz; Aranguiz (Gutierrez 64), Vidal (Carmona 88), Vargas (Valdivia 85); Sanchez
■ Mena, Vidal
Referee: Geiger (United States)

June 23, 2014

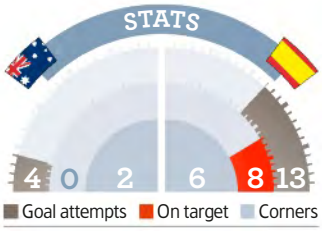
AUSTRALIA (0) 0
SPAIN (1) 3
Villa 36, Torres 69, Mata 82

Arena da Baixada, Curitiba
Att: 39,375

END OF AN ERA?
The reigning champions departed the tournament with a victory in this dead rubber.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 David Villa tapped home a cross from Juanfran.
0-2 Fernando Torres slotted home Andres Iniesta's pass.
0-3 Juan Mata tucked home a cross from Cesc Fabregas.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Andres Iniesta (Spain)
Involved in the opening two goals and could be the ideal replacement for Xavi in the centre of midfield.



MATTER OF FACT
Spain's all-time record scorer David Villa signed off from international football with his 59th goal.

TALKING POINT
Was this the end of an era for Spain and the Barcelona-dominated line-up that had brought so much success in the past?

WHO SAID WHAT
"There are a lot of players in this group who can play a part in the future"
Spain coach **Vicente Del Bosque**

AUSTRALIA (4-2-3-1)
Ryan; McGowan, Wilkinson, Spiranovic, Davidson; Jedinak, McKay; Leckie, Bozanic (Bresciano 72), Oar (Troisi 61); Taggart (Halloran 45)
■ Spiranovic, Jedinak

SPAIN (4-2-3-1)
Reina; Juanfran, Albiol, Ramos, Alba; Koke, Alonso (Silva 83); Cazorla (Fabregas 68), Iniesta, Villa (Mata 57), Torres
■ Ramos
Referee: Shukralla (Bah)

Landmark...Fer's goal against Chile was his first for the national side

June 23, 2014

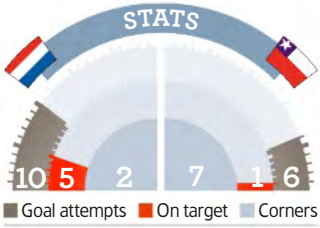
HOLLAND (1) 2
Fer 77, Depay 90+2
CHILE (0) 0

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 62,996

SUBS ON TARGET
Although both teams had already qualified, second-half goals from their subs gave Holland top billing.

KEY MOMENT
1-0 An unmarked Leroy Fer headed home.
2-0 Memphis Depay scored after a brilliant solo run and cross from Arjen Robben.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Nigel De Jong (Holland)
Played a key role in frustrating Chile's movement in midfield and set up Robben to supply the cross for the second goal.



MATTER OF FACT
This was the first time since 1996 that Holland had fielded a team without a player with "Van" in his surname.

TALKING POINT
Chile's fans turned the stadium red and provided outstanding support for a team who were left aggrieved by a number of potential penalty decisions that went against them, notably when Alexis Sanchez collided with Holland goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen.

WHO SAID WHAT
"If you look at my CV you'll see that I win a lot of matches. That's not new"
Holland coach **Louis Van Gaal**

HOLLAND (5-2-1-2)
Cillessen; Janmaat, Vlaar, De Vrij, Blind, Kuyt (Kongolo 87); Wijnaldum, De Jong; Sneijder (Fer 73); Robben, Lens (Depay 68)
■ Blind

CHILE (3-3-2-2)
Bravo; Medel, Silva (Valdivia 69), Jara; Isla, Diaz, Mena; Aranguiz, Gutierrez (Beausejour 46); Sanchez, Vargas (Pinilla 81)
■ Silva
Referee: Gassama (Gam)

June 14, 2014

COLOMBIA (1) 3
Armero 5, Gutierrez 58, Rodriguez 90+3

GREECE (0) 0

Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte
Att: 57,174

COLOMBIA HEAD IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Colombia made a winning return in their first game at the finals since 1998, although Theofanis Gekas chalked up one of the misses of the tournament when he headed against the crossbar from close range.

KEY MOMENTS

1-0 Pablo Armero wrong-footed Orestis Karnezis after a clever dummy by James Rodriguez.

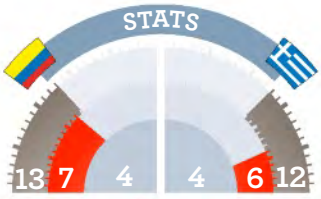
2-0 Abel Aguilar flicked on a corner for Teofilo Gutierrez to score from close range.

3-0 Rodriguez stabbed home from 15 yards.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Juan Cuadrado (Colombia)
Set up two goals and was a constant menace down the right flank. The match was bookended by two mazy runs from the winger, both of which led to goals.

Determined...Colombia's Victor Ibarbo runs at Greece



MATTER OF FACT

Greece had conceded just four times in qualifying, but Colombia took just over 90 minutes to score three against them.

TALKING POINT

Three goals in their opening game went some way to answering the doubts about where Colombia's goals might come from without star striker Radamel Falcao.

WHO SAID WHAT

"The crucial thing was that everyone did the job they were tasked with and that allowed us to play calmly. This result is very important for us and sets us up for the rest of the group stage"
Colombia coach **Jose Pekerman**

COLOMBIA (4-2-3-1)

Ospina; Zuniga, Zapata, Yepes, Armero (Arias 74); Sanchez, Aguilar (Mejia 69); Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Ibarbo; Gutierrez (Martinez 76)
Sanchez

On target...Gervinho celebrates putting his side ahead against Japan

GREECE (4-5-1)

Karnezis; Torosidis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Holebas; Salpingidis (Fetfatzidis 57), Maniatis, Katsouranis, Kone (Karagounis 78), Samaras; Gekas (Mitroglou 64)
Papastathopoulos, Salpingidis
Referee: Geiger (USA)

June 14, 2014

IVORY COAST (0) 2
Bony 64, Gervinho 66

JAPAN (1) 1
Honda 20

Arena Pernambuco, Recife
Att: 40,267

CHANGE MAKES DIFFERENCE

Coach Sabri Lamouchi left Didier Drogba on the substitutes' bench, but within five minutes of the Galatasaray striker's second-half introduction Ivory Coast had overturned a 1-0 deficit.

KEY MOMENTS

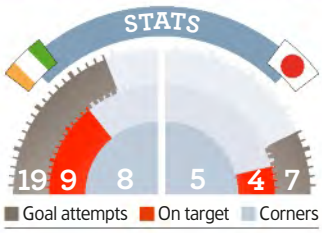
0-1 Kesiuke Honda fired home after a short corner.

1-1 Wilfried Bony headed home a cross from Serge Aurier.

1-2 Another inch-perfect cross from Aurier found Gervinho.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Serge Aurier (Ivory Coast)
The attacking right-back supplied excellent crosses for both of his side's goals.



MATTER OF FACT

Ivory Coast scored two headed goals for the first time at a World Cup finals.

TALKING POINT

Lamouchi made a huge call in opting to go with the in-form Bony in preference to the side's talismatic 36-year-old Drogba.

Busy...Ivorian keeper Boubacar Barry

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
GREECE	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
IVORY COAST	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
JAPAN	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

GROUP C

To the next stage...Colombia celebrate a goal against Japan

Committed... Atsuto Uchida gives his all for the cause

WHO SAID WHAT
"Having a player like Didier Drogba in the team, or even among the substitutes, changes a game"
Ivory Coast coach **Sabri Lamouchi**

IVORY COAST (4-2-3-1)
Barry; Aurier, Zokora, Bamba, Boka (Djakpa 75); Die (Drogba 62), Tiote; Kalou, Y Toure, Gervinho; Bony (Ya Konan 78)
Bamba, Zakora

JAPAN (4-2-3-1)
Kawashima; Uchida, Morishige, Yoshida, Nagatomo; Yamaguchi, Hasebe (Endo 54); Okazaki, Honda, Kagawa (Kakitani 86); Osako (Okubo 67)
Yoshida, Morishige
Referee: Osses (Chile)

June 19, 2014

COLOMBIA (0) 2
Rodriguez 64, Quintero 70

IVORY COAST (0) 1
Gervinho 73

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia
Att: 68,748

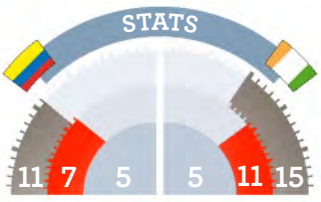
COLOMBIA TO CONTINUE
This win, coupled with the Japan-Greece draw later that evening, put Colombia through to the last 16.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 James Rodriguez headed home Juan Cuadrado's corner at the near post.

2-0 Juan Quintero finished after Serey Die was dispossessed trying to play out of defence.

2-1 Gervinho cut in from the left wing and beat goalkeeper David Ospina at his near post.

MAN OF THE MATCH
James Rodriguez (Colombia)
Fast emerging as one of the stars of the tournament, the 22-year-old opened the scoring with a firm header and set up the second with a perfectly weighted pass to Quintero.



MATTER OF FACT
Rodriguez would go on to be the only player – along with Lionel Messi – to score in all three group games.

TALKING POINT
Even without the injured Radamel Falcao, Colombia established themselves as a vibrant attacking force, with Rodriguez and Cuadrado able to trouble anyone.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It is, of course, a huge pleasure to see Colombia coming to this level. However, we cannot start thinking ahead of time or what might be coming later on"
Colombia coach **Jose Pekerman**

COLOMBIA (4-2-3-1)
Ospina; Zuniga, Zapata, Yepes, Armero (Arias 72); Aguilar (Mejia 79), Sanchez; Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Ibarbo (Quintero); Gutierrez

IVORY COAST (4-2-1-3)
Barry; Aurier, Zokora, Bamba, Boka; Tiote, Die (Bolly 73); Y Toure; Gradel (Kalou 67), Bony (Drogba 60), Gervinho
Zokora, Tiote
Referee: Webb (England)

June 19, 2014

JAPAN (0) 0

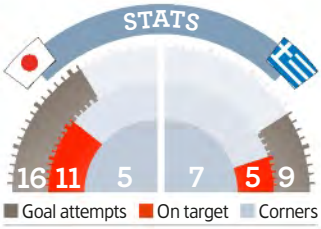
GREECE (0) 0

Arena das Dunas, Natal
Att: 39,485

GOALLESS GREEKS
Greece held on for a draw after the loss of Konstantinos Katsouranis but had failed to score in seven of their eight World Cup games.

KEY MOMENT
RED CARD Katsouranis gets a second yellow card for a late lunge at Makoto Hasebe.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Kostas Manolas (Greece)
Greece were hardly under siege but they did have to defend for the bulk of the match. He was a steadying presence throughout at the heart of their defence.



MATTER OF FACT
Greece kept a clean sheet for the first time ever at the finals.

TALKING POINT
Greece coach Fernando Santos had to talk defender Giannis Maniatis into remaining with the squad before the game after he lashed out at Georgios Tzavellas during a training session. Maniatis had been upset at the quality of crosses Tzavellas was providing and is reported to have booked a flight back to Greece after storming off the training pitch.

WHO SAID WHAT
"My players were brilliant. They worked hard after the red card. Without the red card we probably would have won the game"
Greece coach **Fernando Santos**

JAPAN (4-2-3-1)
Kawashima; Uchida, Yoshida, Konno, Nagatomo; Hasebe (Endo 45), Yamaguchi; Okubo, Honda, Okazaki; Osako (Kagawa 57)
Hasebe

GREECE (4-1-4-1)
Karnezis; Torosidis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Holebas; Katsouranis; Fetfatzidis (Karagounis 42), Maniatis, Kone (Salpingidis 81), Samaras; Mitroglou (Gekas 35)
Katsouranis (x2), Samaras, Torosidis
Katsouranis 38
Referee: Aguilar (EIS)

END FOR JAPAN COACH Alberto Zaccheroni stepped down after the finals.

June 24, 2014

JAPAN (1)1
Okazaki 45+1

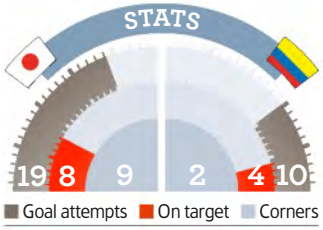
COLOMBIA (1)4
Cuadrado pen 17, Martinez 55, 82, Rodriguez 90

Arena Pantanal, Cuiaba
Att: 40,340

SECOND STRING TOO GOOD
Having already qualified, Colombia made nine changes to their starting line-up but still ran out easy winners.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Juan Cuadrado scored with a penalty after Yasuyuki Konno fouled Adrian Ramos.
1-1 Shinji Okazaki beat keeper David Ospina with a back-header.
1-2 Jackson Martinez finished after being played in by James Rodriguez.
1-3 Martinez was set up once again by Rodriguez.
1-4 Rodriguez chipped home.

MAN OF THE MATCH
James Rodriguez (Colombia)
Having started the first two games, he came off the bench in the third to create two goals and score one.



MATTER OF FACT
Colombia goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon came on for the last five minutes and became the oldest player ever to appear at a World Cup, at the age of 43 years and three days.

TALKING POINT
Japan had twice as many chances, created by some dynamic midfield play and exceptional movement by the full-backs, but they lacked the penalty-box finisher needed to convert those opportunities.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It hurts to go out like this. I don't have any other words. I feel responsible and deeply sorry. It's pathetic"
Japan's **Shinji Kagawa**

JAPAN (4-2-3-1)
Kawashima; Uchida, Yoshida, Konno, Nagatomo; Aoyama (Yamaguchi 62), Hasebe; Okazaki (Kakitani 69), Honda, Kagawa (Kiyotake 85); Okubo
Konno

COLOMBIA (4-2-2-2)
Ospina (Mondragon 85); Arias, Valdes, Balanta, Armero; Guarin, Mejia; Cuadrado (Carbonero 46), Quintero (Rodriguez 46); Ramos, Martinez
Guarin
Referee: Proenca (Por)

June 24, 2014

GREECE (1)2
Samaris 42, Samaras 90+3

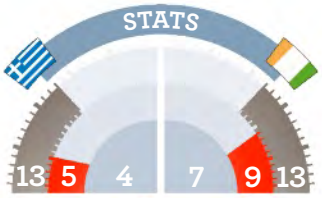
IVORY COAST (0)1
Bony 74

Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza
Att: 59,095

DRAMATIC FINISH
A controversial last-minute penalty took Greece into the last 16 for the first time and denied Ivory Coast their own historic qualification.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Andreas Samaris scored after a one-two with Giorgos Samaras.
1-1 Wilfried Bony fired home a cut-back from Gervinho
2-1 Samaras scored from the spot after Giovanni Sio was judged to have tripped him.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Giorgos Samaras (Greece)
Even before his last-gasp winner he was the outstanding player on the pitch, setting up the opening goal and being at the heart of all of Greece's better moments.



MATTER OF FACT
Samaras' late winner was only the fourth goal Greece had scored at the World Cup.

TALKING POINT
Although Sio was ruled to have fouled Samaras for the penalty, it did look as though the Greece striker clipped his own heel as he went down.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Ivory Coast is a great football nation and this was a cruel game. After so much hard work and so much sacrifice, all of us and everyone in the Ivory Coast is very sad"
Ivory Coast coach **Sabri Lamouchi**

GREECE (4-3-3)
Karnezis (Glykos 24); Torosidis, Papastathopoulos, Manolas, Holebas; Christodoulopoulos, Maniatis, Karagounis (Gekas 78); Kone (Samaris 12), Salpingidis, Samaras

IVORY COAST (4-3-2-1)W
Barry; Aurier, K Toure, Bamba, Boka; Die, Tiote (Bony 61); Kalou, Y Toure, Gervinho (Sio 83); Drogba (Diomande 78)
Drogba, Kalou, Die
Referee: Vera (Ecu)

Close...Colombia's Carlos Valdes and Yoshito Okubo of Japan

LAMOUCHI LEAVES
Soon after their elimination, Ivory Coast coach Sabri Lamouchi resigned.

Big call... referee Carlos Vera rules that Samaras (on ground) has been fouled

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COSTA RICA	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
URUGUAY	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
ITALY	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
ENGLAND	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Stopped...Danny Welbeck can't break through Italy's defence

In charge... Uruguay skipper Lugano takes charge of matters

June 14, 2014

URUGUAY (1)1
Cavani pen 24

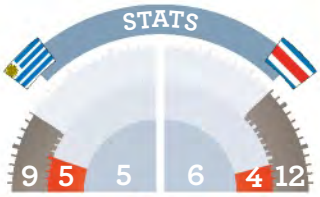
COSTA RICA (0)3
Campbell 54, Duarte 57, Urena 85

Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza
Att: 58,679

MINNOWS CAUSE UPSET
The supposed whipping boys of the group sprang a huge shock with this performance, coming from behind to win with three second-half goals.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Edinson Cavani scored from the spot after Diego Lugano was hauled down by Junior Diaz.
1-1 Joel Campbell fired home from Cristian Gamboa's cross.
1-2 Oscar Duarte scored with a diving header at the far post.
1-3 Marco Urena turned home Campbell's through ball.
RED CARD Maxi Pereira was sent off for kicking Campbell.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Joel Campbell (Costa Rica)
Even before levelling the scores he was the most inventive player on the pitch. Took his goal well and played a beautifully weighted pass for Costa Rica's third.



MATTER OF FACT
Although considered a minor power in the world game, Costa Rica have now won three of their opening games in four finals appearances.

TALKING POINT
Uruguay, without the injured Luis Suarez, looked a very ordinary side. The fact that coach Oscar Tabarez was not prepared to risk his star striker in the closing stages of the game raised questions about the player's overall fitness.

WHO SAID WHAT
"He will definitely come back to us for pre-season. He is maturing well"
Arsenal manager **Arsene Wenger** on Campbell, who has been out on loan for the past three seasons

Looking good...Campbell

URUGUAY (4-2-3-1)
Muslera; M Pereira, Lugano, Godin, Caceres; Gargano (Gonzalez), Arevalo Rios; Stuani, Forlan (Lodeiro 60), Rodriguez (Hernandez 76); Cavani
Lugano, Gargano, Cacares
M Pereira 90+5

COSTA RICA (5-4-1)
Navas; Gamboa, Duarte, Gonzalez, Umana, Diaz; Ruiz (Urena 83), Tejeda (Cubero 75), Borges, Bolanos (Barrantes 89); Campbell
Referee: Brych (Ger)

June 14, 2014

ENGLAND (1)1
Sturridge 37

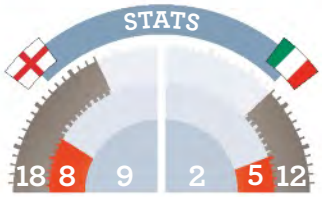
ITALY (1)2
Marchisio 35, Balotelli 55

Arena Amazonia, Manaus
Att: 39,800

IN CONTROL
Masters when it comes to retaining possession, Italy kept a counter-attacking England at bay in energy-sapping conditions.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Andrea Pirlo dummied a short corner and Claudio Marchisio fired home.
1-1 Daniel Sturridge arrived at the far post to turn home a Wayne Rooney cross from the left.
1-2 Mario Balotelli headed in Antonio Candreva's cross.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Antonio Candreva (Italy)
Was a thorn in England's left-hand side all evening. He pinned Leighton Baines back for much of the game and provided a wonderfully flighted cross for the winner.



MATTER OF FACT
Italy playmaker Andrea Pirlo had another near-faultless performance, completing 95 per cent of his 108 attempted passes.

TALKING POINT
Played out of position on the left flank for much of the game, Wayne Rooney was still yet to score in a World Cup finals and he squandered England's best chance of an equaliser when he snatched at an effort from 12 yards.

WHO SAID WHAT
"The result comes down to that Wayne Rooney miss and Mario Balotelli taking his chance"
TV pundit and former France striker **Thierry Henry**

ENGLAND (4-2-3-1)
Hart; Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka, Baines; Henderson (Wilshere 73), Gerrard; Welbeck (Barkley 61), Sterling, Rooney; Sturridge (Lallana 80)
Sterling

ITALY (4-3-2-1)
Sirigu; Darmian, Barzagli, Paletta, Chiellini; Verratti (Motta 57), De Rossi, Pirlo; Candreva (Parolo 79), Marchisio; Balotelli (Immobile 73)
Referee: Kuipers (Hol)

June 19, 2014

URUGUAY (1)2
Suarez 39, 85

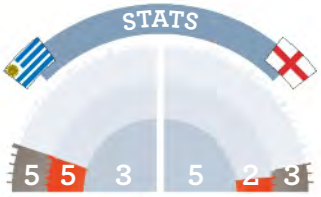
ENGLAND (0)1
Rooney 75

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 62,575

SUAREZ AT THE DOUBLE
After missing the opening game following knee surgery, Luis Suarez returned to action and scored twice for Uruguay.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Suarez heads Edinson Cavani's chip past Joe Hart.
1-1 Wayne Rooney stabbed home Glen Johnson's cross.
2-1 The ball skidded off the head of Steven Gerrard and Suarez ran through the defence to score.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Luis Suarez (Uruguay)
The striker was apparently not fit enough to play against Costa Rica but looked sharp against England with two classy finishes.



MATTER OF FACT
Wayne Rooney's goal was his 40th for England but his first at a World Cup finals.

TALKING POINT
Uruguay were unrecognisable from the side that capitulated to Costa Rica. Oscar Tabarez made five changes to the starting line-up and the return of Suarez galvanised the South American champions.

Back in action...Suarez scored twice against England

Close...Italy's Ignazio Abate gets to grips with Christian Bolanos of Costa Rica

WHO SAID WHAT
"Before the game, too many people in England laughed about my attitude over the last few years. This is a very good time for me. I want to see what they think now"
Uruguay's striker **Luis Suarez**, who plays his club football in England with Liverpool

URUGUAY (4-1-3-1-1)
Muslera; Caceres, Gimenez, Godin, Pereira: Arevalo Rios; Gonzalez (Fucile 78), Lodeiro (Stuani), Rodriguez; Cavani; Suarez (Coates 88)
Godin

ENGLAND (4-2-3-1)
Hart; Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka, Baines; Gerrard, Henderson (Lambert 87); Sterling (Barkley 64), Rooney, Welbeck (Lallana 71); Sturridge
Gerrard
Referee: Carballo (Spain)

June 20, 2014

ITALY (0)0

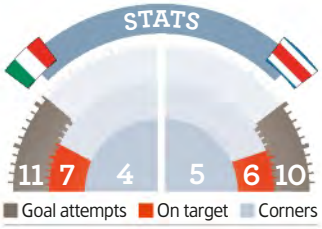
COSTA RICA (1)1
Ruiz 44

Arena Pernambuco, Recife
Att: 40,285

MORE SURPRISES
A second shock victory for "*Los Ticos*" put them in the second round for the second time in four finals. The result also condemned England – who were beaten by Uruguay the previous day – to their earliest-ever World Cup exit.

KEY MOMENT
0-1 Bryan Ruiz heads the ball onto the crossbar and in from Junior Diaz's cross.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Junior Diaz (Costa Rica)
Not only did he create the only goal of the game with a wonderful cross, he was also a constant outlet for his side when they went forward. Also offered a solid, dependable presence at the back.



MATTER OF FACT
Italy have now failed to win their second group match at their last four finals.

TALKING POINT
Costa Rica proved that their win against Uruguay in the opening game was not a fluke by repeating the trick against even more illustrious opposition in Recife. The Ticos were compact defensively and in striker Joel Campbell they also had unpredictability going forward.

Close...Rooney's header hits the bar for England against Uruguay

Evidence... Chiellini shows the bite mark from Suarez

PAYING THE PRICE
Despite only signing a new deal in May, Italy coach Cesare Prandelli resigned.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was a beautiful match and the people of Costa Rica deserve this day"
Costa Rica coach **Jorge Luis Pinto**

ITALY (4-2-3-1)
Buffon; Abate, Barzagli, Chiellini, Darmian; Motta (Cassano 45), De Rossi; Candreva (Insigne 57), Pirlo, Marchisio (Cerci 69); Balotelli
Balotelli

COSTA RICA (5-4-1)
Navas; Gamboa, Duarte, Gonzalez, Umana, Diaz; Ruiz (Brenes 81), Borges, Tejeda (Cubero 68), Bolanos; Campbell (Urena 74)
Cubero
Referee: Osses (Chl)

June 24, 2014

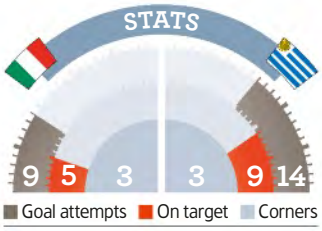
ITALY (0) 0
URUGUAY (0) 1
Godin 81

Arena das Dunas, Natal
Att: 39,706

BITE OVERSHADOWS WIN
Uruguay went through at the expense of 10-man Italy, but qualification was soured by claims that their controversial striker Luis Suarez bit Giorgio Chiellini.

KEY MOMENTS
RED CARD Claudio Marchisio was sent off for a high tackle on Egidio Arevalo Rios.
0-1 Diego Godin headed Uruguay into the knockout stage.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Diego Godin (Uruguay)
Scored the winner from a set-piece and was a rock at the heart of the Uruguay defence.



MATTER OF FACT
Suarez is banned for four months and nine competitive international matches. The pervious longest ban in World Cup history was eight games, handed out in 1994 to Italy defender Mauro Tassotti for breaking Spain's Luis Enrique's nose with his elbow.

TALKING POINT
The scorer of both goals in the victory against England, Suarez made all the headlines for the wrong reasons this time and his ban is certain to have a severe affect on Uruguay's chances.

WHO SAID WHAT
"There are things that happen on the pitch and you should not make such a big deal out of them. It was just the two of us inside the area and he bumped into me with his shoulder"
Suarez talks to Uruguayan television after the game

ITALY (3-5-2)
Buffon; Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Darmian, Verratti (Motta 75), Pirlo, Marchisio, De Sciglio; Immobile (Cassano 71), Balotelli (Parolo 45)
Balotelli, De Sciglio
Marchisio 59

URUGUAY (4-3-1-2)
Muslera; Caceres, Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira (Stuani 63); Gonzalez, Arevalo Rios, Rodriguez (Ramirez 78); Lodeiro (M Pereira 45); Suarez, Cavani
Arevelo Rios, Muslera
Referee: Rodriguez (Mex)

June 24, 2014

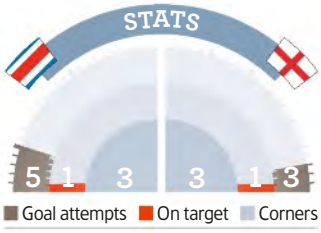
COSTA RICA (0) 0
ENGLAND (0) 0

Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte
Att: 57,823

Out...England's Jack Wilshere (right)

TOP OF THE PILE
Costa Rica finished top of the group after drawing with an England side that saw nine changes from the team that started against Uruguay.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ross Barkley (England)
If England are to take any consolation from this tournament for the future, the performance of the Everton midfielder offered some cause for optimism. The 20-year-old is still a raw talent, but he demonstrated his suitability for the international stage.



MATTER OF FACT
England failed to win a game at the finals for the first time since 1958.

TALKING POINT
Costa Rica topped Group D despite two of their best players – striker Alvaro Saborio and wing-back Bryan Oviedo – being injured and failing to make the squad for Brazil.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Always look on the bright side of life"
England fans in Belo Horizonte

ENGLAND (4-3-3)
Foster; Jones, Smalling, Cahill, Shaw; Milner (Rooney 76), Lampard, Wilshere (Gerrard 73); Barkley, Sturridge, Lallana (Sterling 62)
Barkley, Lallana

COSTA RICA (5-3-2)
Navas; Gamboa, Diaz, Miller, Gonzalez, Duarte; Ruiz, Borges (Barrantes 78), Tejeda; Brenes (Bolanos 59) Campbell (Urena 64)
Gonzalez
Referee: Haimoudi (Alg)

Determined...Behrami's driving run brought about the Swiss equaliser

June 15, 2014

SWITZERLAND (0) 2
Mehmedi 48, Seferovic 90+3

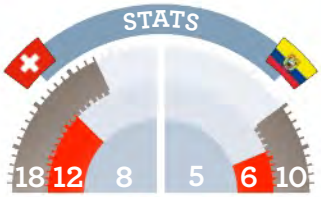
ECUADOR (1) 1
E Valencia 22

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha, Brasilia
Att: 68,351

WINNERS FROM THE BENCH
Ottmar Hitzfeld's two second-half subs both scored as Switzerland came from behind, with Haris Seferovic scoring the winner in injury time three minutes after coming on.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Enner Valencia headed home a Walter Ayovi free-kick.
1-1 Admir Mehmedi scored with a near-post header from a corner.
2-1 Seferovic turned in Ricardo Rodriguez's cross after Valon Behrami ran from his penalty area.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Ricardo Rodriguez (Switzerland)
Provided the crosses for both his side's goals, with the first in particular being a pass of pinpoint accuracy.



MATTER OF FACT
This is the first time these two sides had ever met in an international.

TALKING POINT
Full marks to the referee, Ravshan Irmatov, who waved play on when Ecuador attempted to foul Behrami as he charged forward on the counter-attack that led to the winning goal.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I give a big thank you to my father, it was his birthday and I dedicate my goal to him"
Switzerland's match-winner **Seferovic**

SWITZERLAND (4-2-3-1)
Benaglio; Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Von Bergen, Rodriguez; Behrami, Inler; Shaqiri, Xhaka, Stocker (Mehmedi 45); Drmic (Seferovic 75)
Djourou

ECUADOR (4-4-1-1)
Dominguez; Paredes, Guagua, Erazo, W Ayovi; A Valencia, Noboa, Gruezo, Montero (Rojas 77); E Valencia; Caicedo (Arroyo 70)
Paredes
Referee: Irmatov (Uzb)

First...a shot from Benzema (out of picture) was seen to have crossed the line

June 15, 2014

FRANCE (1) 3
Benzema pen 45, 73, Valladares og 48

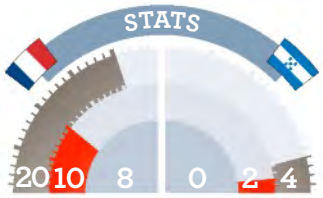
HONDURAS (0) 0

Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre
Att: 68,351

PALACIOS PAYS PENALTY
A second yellow card for Wilson Palacios handed France the lead via the penalty spot and ended any Honduran hopes of an upset.

KEY MOMENT
RED CARD Wilson Palacios barged into Paul Pogba to concede a penalty and pick up a second yellow card.
1-0 Karim Benzema made no mistake from the spot.
2-0 Noel Valladares spilt the ball over the line after Benzema's volley came back off a post.
3-0 Benzema scored his second from an acute angle after Mathieu Debuchy's effort was blocked.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Mathieu Valbuena (France)
The standout performer was one of several contenders in France's midfield, combining industry and creativity.



MATTER OF FACT
France enjoyed 71 per cent possession – the highest at a World Cup finals since possession figures were first recorded in 1966.

TALKING POINT
History was made with France's second goal as goalline technology was used to determine a goal at the World Cup for the first time.

WHO SAID WHAT
"We didn't cross the line. We have a strong, intense style but we always respect the rules of the game"
Honduras coach **Luis Fernando Suarez** defended his side's aggressive approach

FRANCE (4-1-2-3)
Lloris; Debuchy, Varane, Sakho, Evra; Cabaye (Mavuba 65); Pogba (Sissoko 57), Matuidi; Valbuena (Giroud 78),

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
SWITZERLAND	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
ECUADOR	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
HONDURAS	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

GROUP E

Opener...Giroud heads France into the lead against Switzerland

Double...Enner Valencia was on target twice versus Honduras

Benzema, Griezmann
Evra, Pogba, Cabaye

HONDURAS (4-4-2)
Valladares; Beckeles, Bernardez (Chavez 45), Figueroa, Izaguirre; Najar (Claros 58), Garrido, W Palacios, Espinoza; Bengtson (O Garcia 45), Costly
W Palacios, Garcia, Garrido
W Palacios 43
Referee: Ricci (Bra)

June 20, 2014

SWITZERLAND (0) 2
Dzemaili 81, Xhaka 87

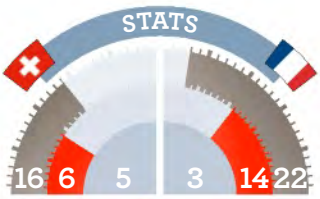
FRANCE (3) 5
Giroud 17, Matuidi 18, Valbuena 40, Benzema 67, Sissoko 73

Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador
Att: 51,003

LES BLEUS LOOK GOOD
Five-star France could even afford to miss a penalty and allow the Swiss two late goals as they produced an impressive performance.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Olivier Giroud's header from a corner went in via a deflection.
0-2 Blaise Matuidi scored with a low drive in at the near post.
0-3 Giroud crossed for Mathieu Valbuena to tap home.
0-4 Karim Benzema, who had earlier missed a penalty, slotted home a ball from Paul Pogba.
0-5 Benzema played in Moussa Sissoko to score.
1-5 Blerim Dzemaili scored with a free-kick.
2-5 Granit Xhaka thumped home a volley.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Karim Benzema (France)
He may have missed a penalty but he was at the heart of France's attacking play. Scored one and was unlucky to see another chalked off as it hit the net just as the final whistle blew.



MATTER OF FACT
Giroud's opening goal was the 100th that France had scored at the World Cup finals.

TALKING POINT
France were outrageously good for the first 80 minutes. Forget the two late Swiss goals – the game was already won by then – this was a real statement of intent from Deschamps' side. Against a side renowned for its organisation and defensive nous, it was as impressive in its way as Holland's 5-1 demolition of Spain a week earlier.

WHO SAID WHAT
"It was almost absolutely perfect"
France coach **Didier Deschamps**

SWITZERLAND (4-2-3-1)
Benaglio; Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Von Bergen (Senderos 9), Rodriguez; Behrami (Dzemaili 45), Inler; Shaqiri, Xhaka, Mehmedi; Seferovic (Drmic 69)

FRANCE (4-3-3)
Lloris: Debuchy, Varane, Sakho (Koscielny 66), Evra; Sissoko, Cabaye, Matuidi; Valbuena (Griezmann 82), Giroud (Pogba 63), Benzema
Cabaye
Referee: Kuipers (Hol)

LONGEST BARREN RUN
Honduras' three losses meant they have played eight finals games without a win.

June 20, 2014

HONDURAS (1) 1
Costly 31

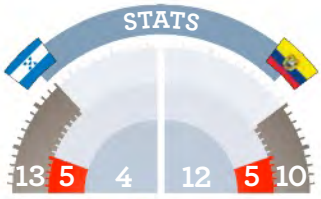
ECUADOR (1) 2
E Valencia 34, 65

Arena da Baixada, Curitiba
Att: 39,224

ENNER VALENCIA DOUBLE
Ecuador came from behind as Honduras surrendered the lead for a second game.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Carlo Costly scored after a defensive header fell into his path.
1-1 Enner Valencia scored at the far post from a Juan Paredes cross.
1-2 Enner Valencia headed home a Walter Ayovi free-kick.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Enner Valencia (Ecuador)
Gave his side the cutting edge. He scored a poacher's goal for Ecuador's first and then put them into the lead with a header.



MATTER OF FACT
Enner Valencia scored in his sixth successive appearance for Ecuador.

TALKING POINT
Three minutes before Ecuador's second goal, Honduras had a goal disallowed as Costly was ruled offside as he played in Jerry Bengtson. It was the second time in the game that Hondurans had a goal ruled out.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Even though we went behind, we got our goals at decisive moments"
Ecuador coach **Reinaldo Rueda**

HONDURAS (4-4-2)
Valladares; Beckeles, Bernardez, Figueroa, Izaguirre (J Garcia 46); O Garcia (Chavez 83), Garrido (Martinez 71), Claros, Espinoza; Bengtson, Costly
Bernardez, Bengtson

ECUADOR (4-4-2)
Dominguez; Paredes, Guagua, Erazo, W Ayovi; A Valencia, Noboa, Minda (Grueza 83), Montero; Caicedo (Mendez 82), E Valencia
E Valencia, A Valencia, Montero
Referee: Williams (Aus)

June 25, 2014

HONDURAS (0) 0

SWITZERLAND (2) 3

Shaqiri 6, 31, 71

Arena da Amazonia, Manaus
Att: 40,322

SWISS MAKE AMENDS

Switzerland gained revenge for South Africa four years ago, when a draw with Honduras in the last group game prevented their progress at the 2010 tournament.

KEY MOMENTS

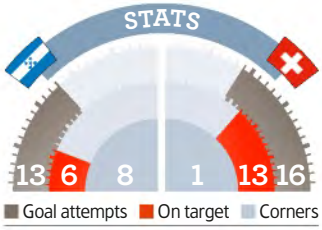
0-1 Xherdan Shaqiri cut inside from the right, held off two defenders and curled a left-foot shot in off the bar.

0-2 Shaqiri ran on to a pass from Josip Drmic to score.

0-3 Drmic set up Shaqiri for his hat-trick.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Xherdan Shaqiri (Switzerland)
The playmaker had been quiet in the first two games, but here he was outstanding, scoring three goals and prompting most of his side's attacking moments.



MATTER OF FACT

Shaqiri's treble was the 50th hat-trick in the history of the competition.

TALKING POINT

Four years ago, Switzerland opened their campaign with a memorable victory over the eventual winners Spain. However, a lack of firepower ultimately cost them and they went out of the competition on goal difference. This time round, seven goals in three games, confirmed that they are a much more potent attacking side.

WHO SAID WHAT

"I wanted to show we could play soccer and that's what we did. I played very well and I'm happy about that and proud of the team"
Hat-trick hero **Xherden Shaqiri**

HONDURAS (4-4-2)

Valladares; Beckeles, Bernardez, Figueroa, J Garcia; O Garcia (Najar 77), Claros, W Palacios, Espinoza (Chavez 45); Bengtson, Costly (J Palacios 40)
J Palacios

SWITZERLAND (4-2-3-1)

Benaglio; Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Schar, Rodriguez; Behrami, Inler; Shaqiri (Dzemaili 87), Xhaka (Lang 77), Mehmedi; Drmic (Seferovic 73)
Referee: Pitana (Arg)

June 25, 2014

ECUADOR (0) 0

FRANCE (0) 0

Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
Att: 73,749

DRAW NOT ENOUGH

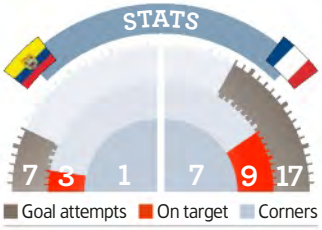
Needing to match Switzerland's score to finish second in the group, a goalless draw saw 10-man Ecuador go out.

KEY MOMENT

RED CARD Antonio Valencia off for a tackle on Lucas Digne.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Alexander Dominguez (Ecuador)
The goalkeeper kept his side in the game with a string of saves in the second half.



MATTER OF FACT

Ecuador were the only South American side not to reach the knockout stage.

TALKING POINT

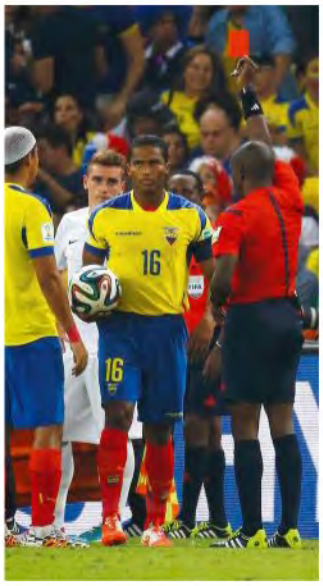
France coach Didier Deschamps made six changes to his starting line-up and, although the side lacked a finishing touch in front of goal, they looked just as well organised as they had been in their two previous games.

WHO SAID WHAT

"I'm satisfied, we finished first in our group, we qualified for the knockout round and all is well. My team selection was not by chance and it's important that all players get into the rhythm"
France coach **Didier Deschamps**

Treble...Shaqiri scored the World Cup's first left-footed hat-trick

Reckless... Antonio Valencia is sent off for a poor challenge



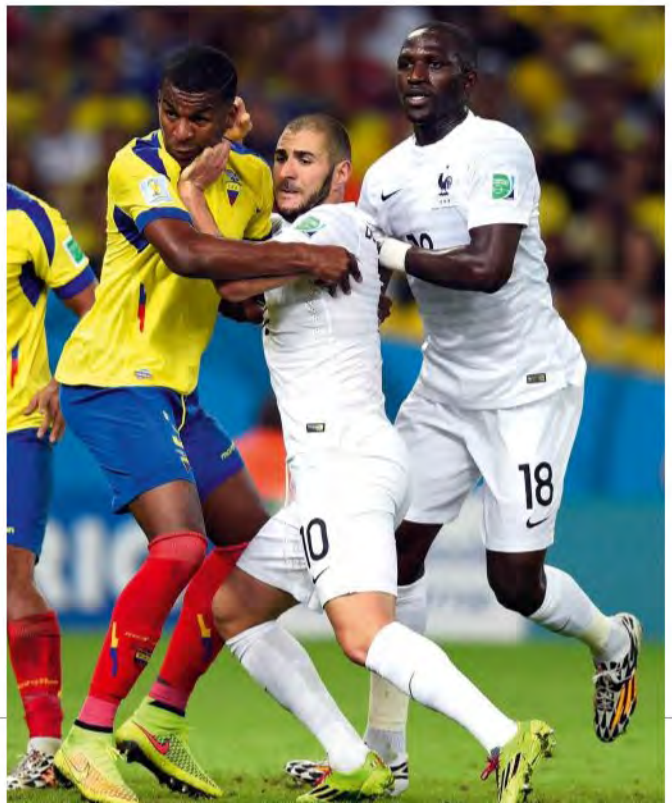
ECUADOR (4-4-2)

Dominguez; Paredes, Guagua, Erazo, W Ayovi; A Valencia, Minda, Noboa (Caicedo 88), Montero (Ibarra 62); Arroyo (Achilier 79), E Valencia
Erazo
A Valencia 50

FRANCE (4-3-3)

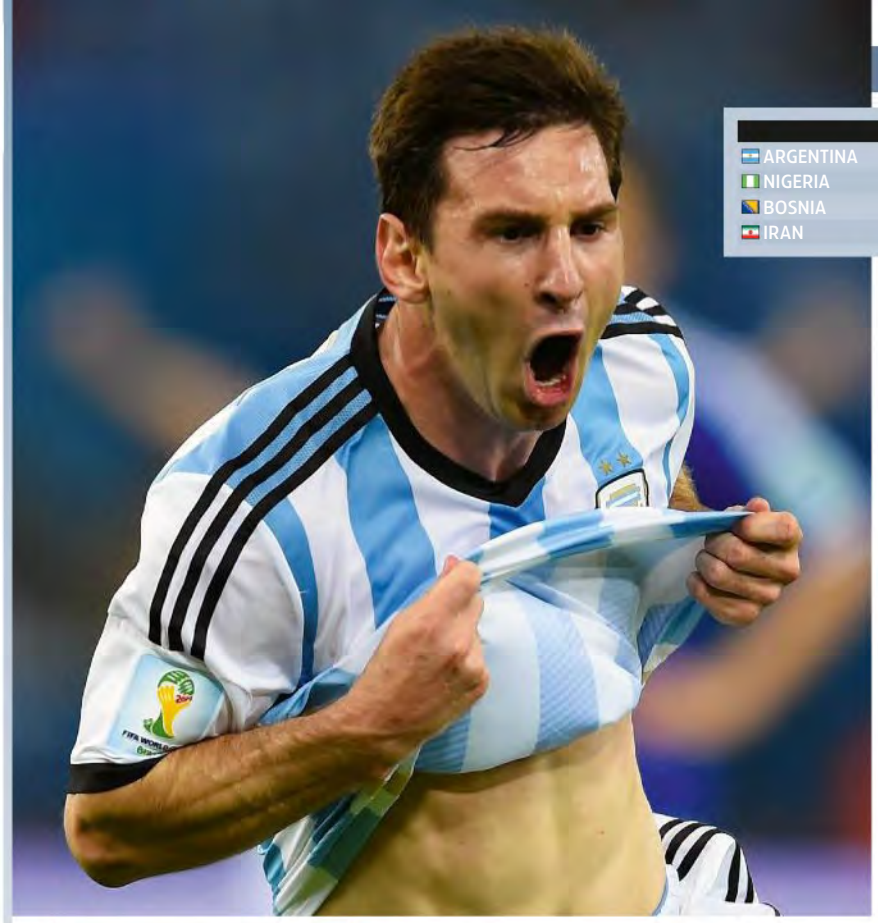
Lloris; Sagna, Koscielny, Sakho (Varane 59), Digne; Pogba, Schneiderlin, Matuidi (Giroud 65); Griezmann (Remy 77), Benzema, Sissoko
Referee: Doue (IvC)

Handful...France's Benzema (left) and Moussa Sissoko



GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ARGENTINA	3	3	0	0	6	3	9
NIGERIA	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
BOSNIA	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
IRAN	3	0	1	2	1	4	1



Leader...Messi scored in all three of Argentina's group games

Class...Messi scored a fine individual goal against Bosnia

June 15, 2014

ARGENTINA (1)2
Kolasinac og 3, Messi 65

BOSNIA (0)1
Ibisevic 85

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 62,103

TACTICAL SWAP HELPS MESSI

Argentina showed glimpses of their potential after coach Alejandro Sabella changed tactics and Lionel Messi scored a brilliant goal.

KEY MOMENTS

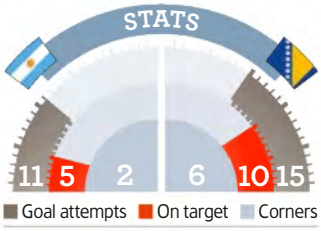
1-0 Marcos Rojo's flick went in off the shins of Sead Kolasinac.

2-0 Messi burst forward from midfield, played a one-two with Gonzalo Higuain and curled a shot in off the post.

2-1 Vedad Ibisevic raced clear to squeeze a shot between the legs of Sergio Romero.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Lionel Messi (Argentina)
Struggled in the first half, dropping deeper and deeper in a bid to get the ball, but half-time changes allowed him to link up with Gonzalo Higuain and Sergio Aguero more effectively and he scored a wonderful second goal for his side.



MATTER OF FACT

Vedad Ibisevic's goal was Bosnia-Herzegovina's first-ever at a World Cup finals. Sead Kolasinac's after two minutes and eight seconds was the fastest own goal in finals history.

TALKING POINT

Alejandro Sabella sprang a surprise with Argentina's conservative 5-3-2 starting line-up against World Cup debutants, but when the formation did not work in the first half they switched to a more familiar 4-3-3.

WHO SAID WHAT

"We started to make more chances when Higuain came on and we got the second goal, which helped us settle down"
Argentina coach **Alejandro Sabella**

ARGENTINA (5-3-2)

Romero; Zabaleta, Campagnaro (Higuain 46), F Fernandez, Garay, Rojo; Rodriguez (Gago 46), Mascherano, Di Maria; Messi, Aguero (Biglia 87)
Rojo

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (4-2-3-1)

Begovic; Mudzja (Ibisevic 69), Bicakcic, Spahic, Kolasinac; Pjanic, Besic; Hajrovic (Visca 71), Mismovic (Medunjanin 74), Lulic; Dzeko
Spahic
Referee: Aguilar (EIS)

Neck and neck...Nigeria's Ogenyi Onazi (left) and Reza Ghoochannejhad of Iran

June 16, 2014

IRAN (0)0

NIGERIA (0)0

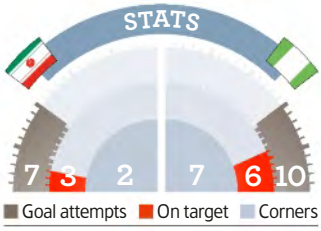
Arena da Baixada, Curitiba
Att: 38,081

NO GOALS, NO FUN

The first draw of the 2014 tournament – and maybe it was not surprising that it was goalless as Nigeria's goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama kept more clean sheets than any other keeper in Europe's top five leagues last season.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Mehrdad Pooladi (Iran)
In an undistinguished match between two ordinary sides no one really shone, but he was highly effective at the back for his side.



MATTER OF FACT

Iran kept a clean sheet in a finals game for the first time ever.

TALKING POINT

Very little to get excited about, although Iran coach Carlos Queiroz was pleased to have gained a point. Reigning African champions Nigeria were hugely disappointing.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Win or lose I'm criticised. In my country it's win at all costs, and sometimes it doesn't go that way"
Nigeria coach **Stephen Keshi**

IRAN (4-4-2)

R Haghighi; Montazeri, Hosseini, Sadeghi, Pooladi; Heydari (Shojaei 89), Teymourian, Nekounam, Hajsafy; Ghoochannejhad, Dejagah (Jahanbakhsh 78)
Teymourian

NIGERIA (4-3-3)

Enyeama; Ambrose, Omeruo, Oboabona (Yobo 29), Oshaniwa; Onazi, Azeez (Odemwingie 69), Mikel; Musa, Emenike, Moses (Ameobi 52)
Referee: Vera (Ecu)

June 21, 2014

ARGENTINA (0)1
Messi 90+1

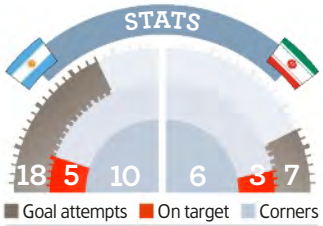
IRAN (0)0

Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte
Att: 57,698

INSPIRATIONAL SKIPPER
Carlos Queiroz's side had their chances to cause a major upset and were only beaten by an injury-time goal from Argentina's captain.

KEY MOMENT
1-0 Messi curled a left-foot shot into the far corner from 25 yards.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Lionel Messi (Argentina)
His moment of brilliance settled the game and took Argentina into the knockout phase.



MATTER OF FACT
Argentina enjoyed 76 per cent of possession – the second highest in a World Cup game since 1966.

TALKING POINT
Iran parked the bus in the first half, but they drove straight through the Argentina defence on a number of occasions after the break, growing in confidence as the Argentina backline wobbled. Messi again showed how he can win a match with a moment of brilliance, but his team-mates looked overwhelmed by the pressure.

Winner...Odemwingie (left) gave Nigeria all three points against Bosnia

Back in numbers...Argentina defend an Iran set-piece

WHO SAID WHAT
"We have a genius who is called Messi and fortunately he is Argentinian. Iran made life hard for us but with Messi, everything is possible"
Argentina coach **Alejandro Sabella**

ARGENTINA (4-2-2-2)
Romero; Zabaleta, F Fernandez, Garay Rojo; Gago, Mascherano; Messi, Di Maria (Biglia 90); Higuain (Palacio 77), Aguero (Lavezzi 77)

IRAN (4-5-1)
A Haghighi; Montazeri, Hosseini, Sadeghi, Pooladi; Shojaei (Heydari 76), Teymourian, Nekounam, Hajsafy (R Haghighi 88), Dejagah (Jahanbakhsh 83); Ghoochannejhad
Nekounam, Shojaei
Referee: Mazic (Ser)

June 21, 2014

NIGERIA (1)1
Odemwingie 29

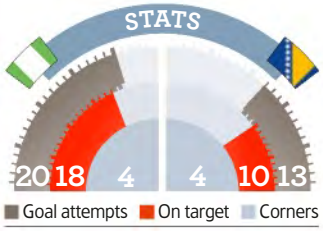
BOSNIA (0)0

Arena Pantanal, Cuiaba
Att: 40,499

NO LUCK FOR NEW BOYS
Moments after Bosnia had seen a goal by Edin Dzeko disallowed for offside, Nigeria broke away to score through Peter Odemwingie and put the World Cup debutants out of the competition.

KEY MOMENT
1-0 Emmanuel Emenike went past Emir Spahic down the right wing and set up Odemwingie to score.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Emmanuel Emenike (Nigeria)
Created the goal and was a constant threat all game.



MATTER OF FACT
This was Nigeria's first win at a World Cup finals since 1998.

TALKING POINT
After Dzeko's goal had been harshly ruled offside, the Bosnia coach Safet Susic was livid and complained: "I was told there was no offside. But this is not the first or last refereeing mistake"

WHO SAID WHAT
"I didn't expect to come back and score a winner in such an important game, but I'm very happy"
Nigeria's **Peter Odemwingie**

NIGERIA (4-3-3)
Enyeama; Ambrose, Yobo, Omeruo, Oshaniwa; Odemwingie, Onazi, Mikel; Emenike, Babatunde (Uzoenyi 75), Musa (Ameobi 65)
Mikel

Rearguard action...Nigeria manage to keep Bosnia at bay

Fourth...Messi scores again

QUEIROZ QUITS IRAN
Carlos Queiroz stepped down as coach of Iran after the tournament.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (4-2-3-1)
Begovic; Mujdza, Sunjic, Spahic, Lulic (Salihovic 58); Medunjanin (Susic 64), Besic; Hajrovic (Ibisevic 57), Pjanic, Misimovic; Dzeko
Medunjanin
Referee: Hintz (NZ)

June 25, 2014

NIGERIA (1)2
Musa 4, 47

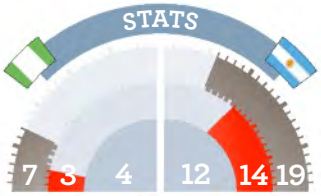
ARGENTINA (2)3
Messi 3, 45+1, Rojo 50

Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre
Att: 43,285

MORE MESSI MAGIC
Another Messi masterclass, but Nigeria went though as runners-up.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Lionel Messi fired home after Angel Di Maria hit a post.
1-1 Ahmed Musa scored after a pass from Michael Babatunde.
1-2 Messi curled home a free-kick.
2-2 Musa ran through again, this time onto a ball from Emmanuel Emenike.
2-3 Ezequiel Lavezzi's corner hit Marcos Rojo's knee.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Lionel Messi (Argentina)
The day after his 27th birthday, he became only the second Argentina player – after Diego Maradona – to score four goals in a World Cup group phase.



MATTER OF FACT
Despite Nigeria's defeat, Stephen Keshi became the first African coach to lead a team into the knockout stage.

TALKING POINT
Argentina's football was more fluid than in their opening two games, against Bosnia and Iran, justifying coach Alejandro Sabella's belief in the 4-3-3 formation. However, Sergio Aguero, who limped off late in the first half, was again disappointing.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Messi is from Jupiter. He is different. He is one hell of a player"
Nigeria coach **Stephen Keshi**

NIGERIA (4-1-4-1)
Enyeama; Ambrose, Yobo, Oshaniwa, Omeruo; Onazi; Odemwingie (Nwofor 80), Mikel, Musa, Babatunde (Uchebo 66); Emenike
Omeruo, Oshaniwa

ARGENTINA (4-3-1-2)
Romero; Zabaleta, F Fernandez, Garay, Rojo; Gago, Mascherano, Di Maria; Messi (Alvarez 62); Higuain (Biglia 90), Aguero (Lavezzi 38)
Referee: Rizzoli (Ita)

June 25, 2014

BOSNIA (1)3
Dzeko 23, Pjanic 59, Vrsajevic 83

IRAN (0)1
Ghoochannejhad 82

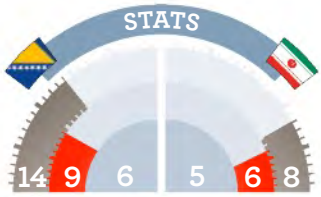
Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador
Att: 48,01

DEBUTANTS' VICTORY
A first-ever World Cup win for Bosnia denied Iran the chance of a place in the last 16.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Edin Dzeko fired a left-foot shot into the right-hand corner.
2-0 Miralem Pjanic scored from Dzeko's pass.
2-1 An unmarked Reza Ghoochannejhad tapped in at the far post.
3-1 Avdija Vrsajevic ran down the right wing and thumped home.

Kept out...Ghoochannejhad (in white)

MAN OF THE MATCH
Edin Dzeko (Bosnia)
The focal point of his side's attack, the talismanic striker opened the scoring with a wonderfully-placed left-foot strike and then set up the second with a slide-rule pass.



MATTER OF FACT
Ghoochannejhad's goal for Iran meant that every one of the 32 countries at Brazil 2014 had scored.

TALKING POINT
Had Bosnia's late goal not been wrongly ruled out for offside against Nigeria, they would have gone through on goal difference at the expense of the African side.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I know that Iran wanted to progress, but the victory was important for us. We can now go home with our heads held high"
Bosnia coach **Safet Susic**

BOSNIA (4-4-2)
Begovic; Vrsajevic, Sunjic, Spahic, Kolasinac; Hadzic (Vranjes 61), Pjanic, Besic, Susic (Salihovic 79); Dzeko (Visca 84), Ibisevic
Besic

IRAN (4-5-1)
A Haghighi; Montazeri, Hosseini, Sadeghi, Pooladi; Dejagah (Ansarifard 68), Shojaei (Heydari 45), Teymourian, Nekounam, Hajsafy (Jahanbakhsh 63); Ghoochannejhad
Ansarifard
Referee: Carballo (Spa)

Nutter...Pepe was sent off for butting Muller, who was sat on the ground

June 16, 2014

GERMANY (3)4
Muller pen 12, 45+1, 78, Hummels 32

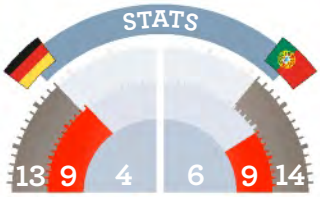
PORTUGAL (0)0

Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador
Att: 51,081

EASY START
Germany strolled to victory in their 100th finals game. They took a 3-0 lead into the break against 10-man Portugal and turned the second half into little more than a training session.

KEY MOMENT
1-0 Thomas Muller scored from the penalty spot after Joao Pereira pulled down Mario Gotze.
2-0 Mats Hummels headed home a corner from the right.
RED CARD Pepe put his head into Muller, who was sat on the pitch after the two came together in a challenge.
3-0 Muller finished after the ball fell nicely for him in the area.
4-0 Muller was on hand when Rui Patricio spilt a cross-shot from Andre Schurrle.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Thomas Muller (Germany)
Celebrated his 50th cap with a match-winning hat-trick.



MATTER OF FACT
Germany have scored four or more goals in each of their opening games at the last four World Cup finals.

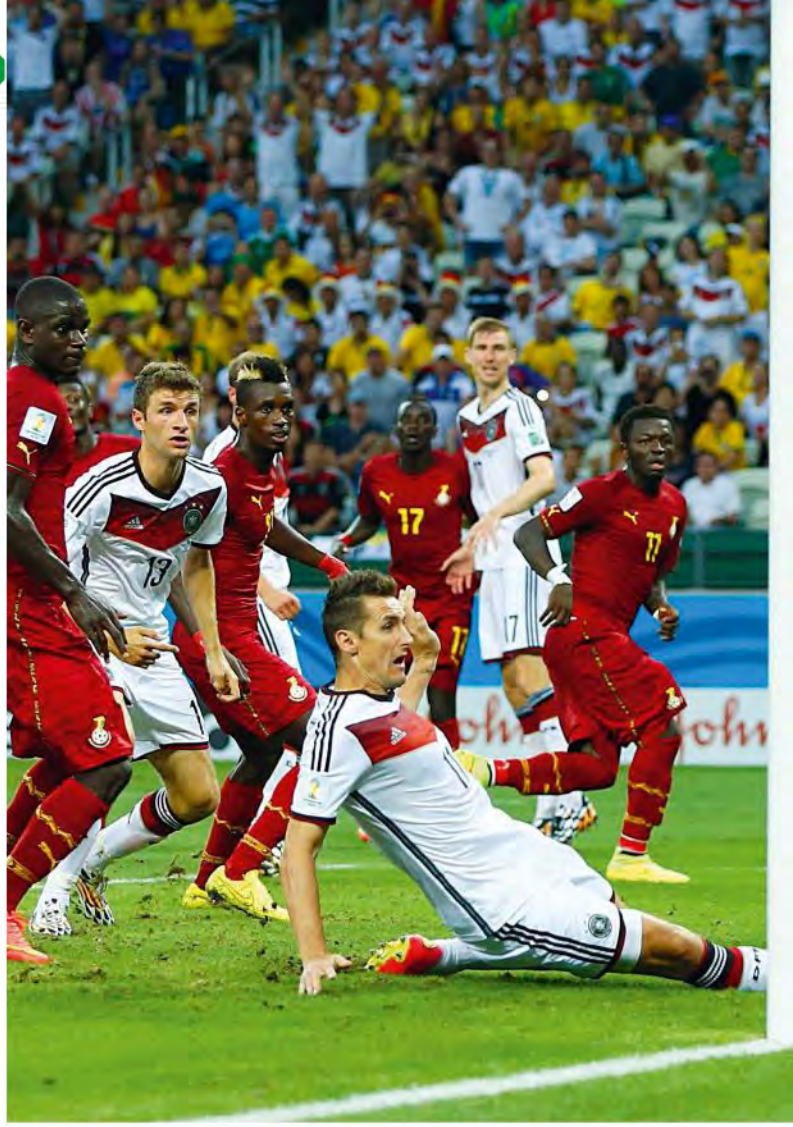
TALKING POINT
Germany need no encouragement to take charge of games, so Pepe's stupidity in confronting Muller did little to help Portugal in what was already an uphill struggle.

WHO SAID WHAT
"I just felt a blow from Pepe's fist, but I can't really remember much of what happened after"
Germany's **Thomas Muller**

GERMANY (4-3-3)
Neuer; Boateng, Mertesacker, Hummels (Mustafi 73), Howedes; Khedira, Lahm, Kroos; Ozil (Schurrle 63), Muller (Podolski 82), Gotze

PORTUGAL (4-3-3)
Patricio; Pereira, Pepe, Alves, Coentrao (A Almeida 65); Moutinho, Veloso (Costa 46), Meireles; Ronaldo, H Almeida (Eder 28), Nani
Pereira
Pepe 37
Referee: Mazic (Ser)

Centre of attention...Portugal's Joao Moutinho is surrounded by Germans



June 16, 2014

GHANA (0)1
A Ayew 82

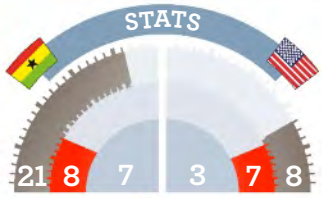
USA (1)2
Dempsey 1, Brooks 86

Arena das Dunas, Natal
Att: 39,760

US AVENGE 2010 DEFEAT
A first-minute goal and a late winner saw the USA gain revenge for their 2010 exit to Ghana in South Africa. The Africans also beat them in the 2006 finals.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Clint Dempsey scored with a left-foot shot in off the far post.
1-1 Andre Ayew poked the ball home with the outside of his foot following a backheel from Asamoah Gyan.
1-2 John Brooks headed home Graham Zusi's outswinging corner.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Jermaine Jones (USA)
His robust approach helped the US hold on to their early lead for most of the match, with fellow midfielder Michael Bradley strangely below par.



MATTER OF FACT
Clint Dempsey's goal after 29 seconds was the fifth-fastest in finals history. He also became the first American to score at three World Cups.

TALKING POINT
US delight at finally getting the better of Ghana and giving themselves a fighting chance of making the next round was tempered by the news that Jozy Altidore had suffered a hamstring injury.

Quick...Dempsey scored in 29 seconds

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GERMANY	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
USA	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
PORTUGAL	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
GHANA	3	0	1	2	4	6	1

Record...Klose scores his 15th goal at the World Cup

Tumble...Raul Meireles clashes with Matt Besler in Manaus

June 24, 2014

USA (0) 2
Jones 64, Dempsey 81

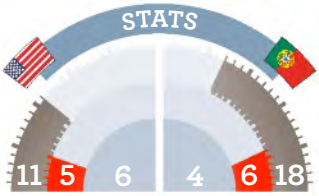
PORTUGAL (1) 2
Nani 5, Varela 90+5

Arena da Amazonia, Manaus
Att: 40,123

VARELA'S LATE, LATE SHOW
An equaliser in the final moments for Portugal – who had opened the scoring in the fifth minute – denied the USA early qualification.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Nani fired home a sliced clearance from Geoff Cameron.
1-1 Jermaine Jones bent a shot in at the far post from 25 yards.
1-2 Clint Dempsey bundled in Graham Zusi's cross.
2-2 Silvestre Varela headed in Cristiano Ronaldo's cross.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Jermaine Jones (USA)
The midfielder again helped the US to be a team who are greater than the sum of its parts.



MATTER OF FACT
In the 39th minute, ref Nestor Pitana called for a discretionary water break – the first ever at a World Cup.

TALKING POINT
People were asking if Cristiano Ronaldo was paying a heavy price for helping Real Madrid win their 10th Champions League? He looked a shadow of his normal self after a demanding club campaign.

WHO SAID WHAT
"'Maybe we're an average team. It would be a lie to say that we are a 'top' team"
Portugal's **Cristiano Ronaldo**

USA (4-1-4-1)
Howard; Johnson, Cameron, Besler, Beasley; Beckerman; Zusi (Gonzalez 90), Jones, Bradley, Bedoya (Yedlin 72); Dempsey (Wondolowski 86)
Jones

PORTUGAL (4-3-3)
Beto; Pereira, Costa, Alves A Almeida (Carvalho 46); Moutinho, Veloso, Meireles (Varela 68); Nani, Postiga (Eder 15), Ronaldo
Referee: Pitana (Arg)

WHO SAID WHAT
"The reaction of John Brooks for the winning goal was priceless. That is what the World Cup is all about"
Television pundit and current MLS striker **Thierry Henry**

GHANA (4-2-3-1)
Kwarasey; Opare, Boye, Mensah, Asamoah; Rabiu (Essien 69), Muntari; Atsu (Adomah 76), J Ayew (Boateng 59), A Ayew; Gyan
Rabiu, Muntari

USA (4-4-2)
Howard; Johnson, Cameron, Besler (Brooks 46), Beasley; Bedoya (Zusi 76), Bradley, Beckerman Jones; Dempsey, Altidore (Johannsson 23)
Referee: Eriksson (Swe)

June 21, 2014

GERMANY (0) 2
Gotz 51, Klose 71

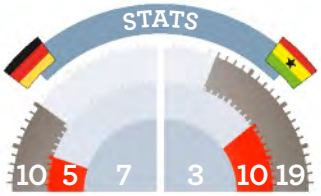
GHANA (0) 2
A Ayew 54, Gyan 63

Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza
Att: 59,62

'BLACK STARS' SHINE
Honours were even in a thrilling game that swung back and forth – and had it not been for some poor decision making in the final third, Ghana would have emerged as deserved winners.

KEY MOMENTS
1-0 Mario Gotze turned the ball home with his thigh from Thomas Muller's cross.
1-1 Andre Ayew headed home at the far post.
1-2 Asamoah Gyan scored after Sulley Muntari cut out a poor pass.
2-2 Miroslav Klose slid home a flicked-on corner.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Harrison Afful (Ghana)
Worked tirelessly down the right flank and supplied a wonderful cross for Ghana's opening goal.



MATTER OF FACT
Klose equalled Ronaldo's all-time record of 15 finals goals.

TALKING POINT
Having looked the real deal when demolishing 10-man Portugal, this was a reality check for Joachim Low's side as Ghana exposed a defensive vulnerability.

WHO SAID WHAT
"Welcome to the club Klose. I can imagine how happy you are. What a nice World Cup"
Former Brazil striker **Ronaldo** after the German equalled his World Cup goalscoring record

GERMANY (4-3-2-1)
Neuer; Boateng (Mustafi 45), Mertesacker, Hummels, Howedes; Khedira (Schweinsteiger 70), Lahm, Kroos; Ozil, Gotze (Klose 69); Muller

GHANA (4-4-1-1)
Dauda; Afful, Boye, Mensah, Asamoah; Atsu (Wakaso 71), Rabiu (Badu 78), Muntari, A Ayew; Boateng (J Ayew 52); Gyan
Muntari
Referee: Ricci (Ita)

On song...Gyan scored against Germany

Old pals...USA coach Klinsmann and his Germany counterpart Low

June 26, 2014

USA (0)0

GERMANY (0)1

Muller 55

Arena Pernambuco, Recife
Att: 41,876

BOTH GO THROUGH

A result that suited both sides, with Germany topping the group and USA finishing above Portugal on goal difference.

KEY MOMENT

0-1 Thomas Muller fired home after Tim Howard beat away Per Mertesacker's header.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Philipp Lahm (Germany)
The captain, who used to be a fixture in the national side as a full-back excelled in his defensive midfield role and was instrumental in his side's dominance of possession.

MATTER OF FACT

USA's qualification ensured there were three CONCACAF teams in the knockout stage for the first time, while Germany maintained their record of never having been eliminated in the group stage.

TALKING POINT

GIven the close friendship between Jurgen Klinsmann and Joachim Low, there had been talk beforehand of a possible deal between the two teams to ensure their progress to the second round, but Germany's desire to win was never in doubt.

WHO SAID WHAT

"Most people would agree that this was by far the strongest group"
USA coach **Jurgen Klinsmann**

USA (4-2-3-1)

Howard; Johnson, Gonzalez, Besler, Beasley; Beckerman, Jones; Zusi (Yedlin 82), Bradley, Davis (Bedoya 59); Dempsey
Gonzalez, Beckerman

GERMANY (4-1-4-1)

Neuer; Boateng, Mertesacker, Hummels, Howedes; Lahm; Ozil (Schurrle 89), Schweinsteiger (Gotze 76), Kroos, Podolski (Klose 46); Muller
Howedes
Referee: Irmatov (Uzbekistan)

June 26, 2014

PORTUGAL (1)2

Boye og 31, Ronaldo 80

GHANA (0)1

Gyan 57

Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha,
Att: 67,540

NOT ENOUGH GOALS

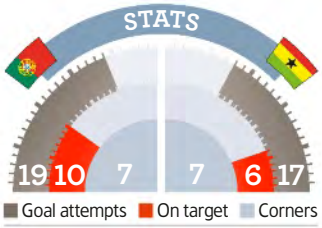
Portugal departed despite picking up three points after failing to achieve the required six-goal swing to overhaul the USA's superior goal difference.

KEY MOMENTS

1-0 Miguel Veloso's cross flew into the net via John Boye's knee.
1-1 Asamoah Gyan headed home after Kwadwo Asamoah crossed with the outside of his boot.
2-1 Fatawu Dauda flapped at a cross which fell to Cristiano Ronaldo for an easy finish.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Joao Moutinho (Portugal)
With Ronaldo lacking his usual dynamism, the creative onus fell upon the Monaco midfielder, who was busy throughout. However, a lack of quality around him meant that much of his good work came to nothing.



MATTER OF FACT

Asamoah Gyan equalled the African record of 11 World Cup appearances and set a new continental record with his sixth goal, overtaking Roger Milla of Cameroon.

Disconsolate... Ronaldo's World Cup adventure ended early

TALKING POINT

All hope Ghana had of qualifying disappeared amid a training boycott, the arrival of a plane carrying $3m for the players, and Kevin-Prince Boateng and Sulley Muntari being sent home for disciplinary reasons.

WHO SAID WHAT

"At this level you look at a team, not individuals, anything that will benefit the whole team, that is what I did with this decision"
Ghana coach **Kwesi Appiah** on sending home two players

PORTUGAL (4-3-3)

Beto (Eduardo 89); Pereira (Varela 62), Pepe, Alves, Veloso; Moutinho, Carvalho, Amorim; Nani, Eder (Vieirinha 69), Ronaldo
Moutinho

GHANA (4-4-2)

Dauda; Afful, Boye, Mensah, Asamoah; Atsu, Rabiu (Acquah 76), Badu, A Ayew (Wakaso 81); Waris (J Ayew 71), Gyan
Afful, Waris, J Ayew
Referee: Shukralla (Bhn)

No chance...keeper Dauda struggles to make up for his mistake as Ronaldo scores

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BELGIUM	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
ALGERIA	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
RUSSIA	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
SOUTH KOREA	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Job done... Belgium scorers Lukaku (far left) and Mertens

Upended... Russia's Aleksandr Samedov

June 17, 2014

BELGIUM (0) 2
Fellaini 70, Mertens 80

ALGERIA (1) 1
Feghouli pen 25

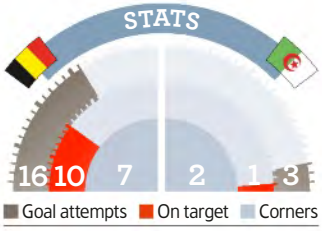
Estadio Mineirao, Belo Horizonte
Att: 56,800

SUBS INSPIRE WIN
Two of coach Marc Wilmots' second-half substitutes got on the scoresheet as Belgium came from behind to win.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Sofiane Feghouli scored from the penalty spot after being pulled back by Jan Vertonghen.
1-1 Marouane Fellaini looped a header in off the bar from Kevin De Bruyne's cross.
1-2 Dries Mertens ran on to a through ball from Eden Hazard to score.

Danger...Algeria crowd out Lukaku

MAN OF THE MATCH
Eden Hazard (Belgium)
Against a well-organised Algerian defence, he always looked the player most likely to make the breakthrough. His perfectly weighted pass for Mertens created the second goal.



MATTER OF FACT
Algeria's goal was their first for 506 minutes of World Cup finals football. Bolivia hold the unwanted record of 517 minutes without scoring.

TALKING POINT
Belgium made hard work of what looked like a relatively easy test against an inexperienced Algeria.

WHO SAID WHAT
"The substitutions I made injected a bit of pace, which changed the game after the break"
Belgium coach **Marc Wilmots**

BELGIUM (4-1-4-1)
Courtois; Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vertonghen; Witsel; De Bruyne, Dembele (Fellaini 65), Chadli (Mertens 46), Hazard; Lukaku (Origi 58)
Vertonghen

ALGERIA (4-2-3-1)
M'Bolhi; Mostefa, Bougherra, Halliche, Ghoulam; Medjani (Ghilas 84), Bentaleb; Feghouli, Taider, Mahrez (Lacen 71); Soudani (Slimani 66)
Bentaleb
Referee: Rodriguez (Mex)

June 17, 2014

RUSSIA (0) 1
Kerzhakov 74

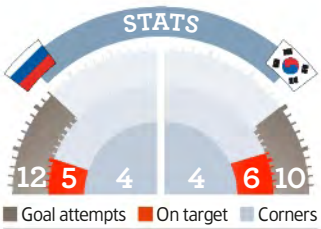
SOUTH KOREA (0) 1
Lee Keun-ho 68

Arena Pantanal, Cuiaba
Att: 37,603

KEEPERS' COSTLY ERRORS
Goalkeeping mistakes at either end saw a very uninspiring contest finish all square.

KEY MOMENTS
0-1 Lee Keun-ho's speculative shot slipped through the hands of keeper Igor Akinfeev.
1-1 Alexander Kerzhakov tapped in from close range after Jung Sung-ryung spilt a shot.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Son Heung-min (South Korea)
The midfielder gave a neat and tidy performance in a game in which no one really stood out.



MATTER OF FACT
Kerzhakov's goal saw him equal Vladimir Beschastnykh's national record of 26 goals for Russia.

TALKING POINT
Russia coach Fabio Capello, who watched England's Robert Green make a similar mistake to Akinfeev's four years ago in South Africa, must have been wondering why his goalkeepers have such bad luck.

WHO SAID WHAT
"My players reacted well after the opening goal and it was the best possible birthday present they could have given me"
Not the happiest of returns for **Fabio Capello** the day before his 68th birthday

RUSSIA (4-1-4-1)
Akinfeev; Yeschenko, Berezutski, Ignashevich, Kombarov; Glushakov (Denisov 72); Samedov, Shatov, (Dzagoev 59), Fayzulin, Zhirkov (Kerzhakov 71); Kokorin
Shatov

SOUTH KOREA (4-2-3-1)
Jung Sung-ryung; Lee Young, Hong, Jeung-ho (Hwang Seok-ho 73), Kim Young-gwon, Yun Suk-young; Han Kook-young, Ki Sung-young; Lee Chung-yong, Koo Ja-cheol, Son Heung-min (Kim Bo-kyung 84); Park Chu-young (Lee Keun-ho 56)
Son Heung-min, Ki Sung-young, Koo Ja-cheol
Referee: Pitana (Arg)

Mistake...Akinfeev is at fault

June 22, 2014

BELGIUM (0) 1
Origi 88

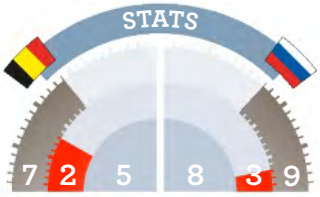
RUSSIA (0) 0

Estadio do Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
Att: 73,819

TEEN SEES OF RUSSIA
Belgium's youthful attack overcame the tiring legs of Russia's veteran defence with a late goal from a teenage substitute.

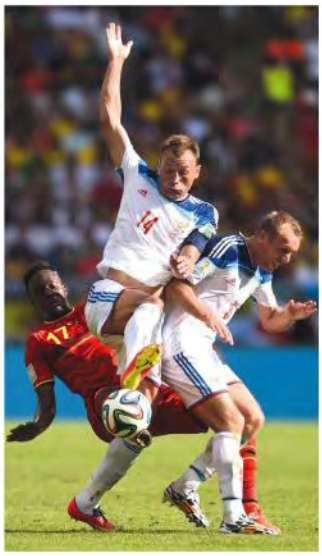
KEY MOMENT
1-0 Divock Origi fired into the roof of the net after a pull back from Eden Hazard.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Vincent Kompany (Belgium)
In a poor game, he defended well and at least ensured that, while his team struggled to score, they rarely gave Russia much space to attack.



MATTER OF FACT
Divock Origi became the first teenager to score at a World Cup since Lionel Messi, for Argentina against Serbia, in June 2006.

TALKING POINT
Despite Belgium advancing to the next stage, their forwards Romelu Lukaku and his replacement Origi offered little threat.



Troublesome...teenager Origi makes a nuisance of himself against Russia

Unstoppable...Halliche (no5) heads home against South Korea

WHO SAID WHAT
"He's 19 and was an unknown before I selected him. Now everyone knows who he is"
Belgium coach **Marc Wilmots** on Origi

BELGIUM (4-1-4-1)
Courtois; Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vermaelen; Witsel; Mertens (Mirallas 75), Fellaini, De Bruyne, Hazard; Lukaku (Origi 57)
Witsel, Alderweireld

RUSSIA (4-1-4-1)
Akinfeev; Kozlov (Eshchenko 62), Ignashevich, Berezutski, Kombarov; Glushakov; Samedov (Kerzhakov 89), Shatov (Dzagoev 82), Fayzulin, Kanunnikov; Kokorin
Glushakov
Referee: Brych (Ger)

June 22, 2014

SOUTH KOREA (0) 2
Son Heung-min 50, Koo Ja-cheol 72

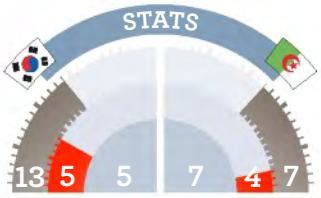
ALGERIA (3) 4
Slimani 26, Halliche 28, Djabou 38, Brahimi 62

Estadio Beira-Rio, Porto Alegre
Att: 42,732

POWERFUL ALGERIA IMPRESS
The North Africans combined pace, power and precision to go 3-0 up by half-time, although South Korea did briefly threaten a comeback by scoring early in the second half.

KEY MOMENT
0-1 Islam Slimani chased down a long ball and outpaced the two central defenders to score.
0-2 Rafik Halliche powered home a header from a corner.
0-3 Slimani slipped in Abdelmoumene Djabou to score.
1-3 Son Heung-min made the most of a mistake from Madjid Bougherra.
1-4 Yacine Brahimi exchanged passes with Sofiane Feghouli before scoring.
2-4 Koo Ja-cheol scored from close range.

MAN OF THE MATCH
Yacine Brahimi (Algeria)
Scored a wonderful fourth goal for Algeria, exchanging passes with Feghouli before firing home, to cap a terrific performance.



MATTER OF FACT
Algeria, who won at the finals for the first time since 1982, became the first African team to score four goals.

TALKING POINT
Four years on from their failure in South Africa – where they failed to

Ecstatic...Algeria's Essaid Belkalem (left) and Islam Slimani

On the attack... South Korea put pressure on Belgium

score a single goal – a new generation of Algerian players, led by Slimani and Feghouli, have made huge progress.

WHO SAID WHAT

"The result speaks for itself. We made mistakes in our preparation and during the match"

South Korea coach **Hong Myung-bo**

SOUTH KOREA (4-2-3-1)

Jung Sung-ryung; Lee Yong, Hong Jeong-ho, Kim Young-gwon, Yun Suk-young; Han Kook-young (Ji Dong-won 78), Ki Sung-yeung; Lee Chung-yong (Lee Keun-ho 64), Koo Ja-cheol, Son Heung-min; Park Chu-young (Kim Shin-wook 57)

Lee Yong, Han Kook-young

ALGERIA (4-2-4)

M'Bolhi; Mandi, Bougherra (Belkalem 89), Halliche, Mesbah; Medjani, Bentaleb; Feghouli, Brahimi (Lacen 77), Slimani, Djabou (Ghilas 73)

Bougherra

Referee: Roldan (Col)

June 26, 2014

SOUTH KOREA (0) 0

BELGIUM (0) 1

Vertonghen 78

Arena de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
Att: 61,397

HARD WORK

Having already booked their place in the knockout phase, Belgium made seven changes but struggled to impress.

KEY MOMENT

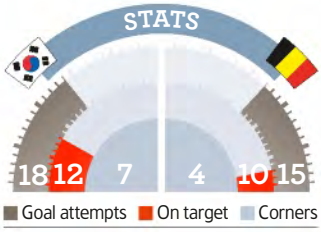
RED CARD Steven Defour was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Kim Shin-wook.

0-1 Jan Vertonghen followed up after Adnan Januzaj's shot was parried away.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Daniel Van Buyten (Belgium)

At 36 he is a steady presence at the heart of the defence. On the few occasions that South Korea were able to exploit their numerical advantage, his experience was vital.



MATTER OF FACT

Belgium set a national record with a 13th unbeaten competitive game.

TALKING POINT

Belgium came through the group stage as one of just four sides with a 100 per cent record. Whether that was a reflection of the poor quality of Group H or the sign of a good side whose best was yet to come remained to be seen.

WHO SAID WHAT

"It's no easy task to finish the group stage with nine points. It's a truly historic achievement for Belgium"

Belgium coach **Marc Wilmots**

BELGIUM (4-3-3)

Courtois; Vanden Borre, Van Buyten, Lombaerts, Vertonghen; Defour, Fellaini, Dembele; Januzaj (Chadli 60), Mirallas (Hazard 88), Mertens (Origi 60)

Dembele

Defour 45

SOUTH KOREA (4-2-3-1)

Kim Seung-gyu; Lee Yong, Kim Young-gwon, Hong Jeong-ho, Yun Suk-young; Han Kook-young (Lee Keun-ho 45), Ki Sung-yueng; Lee Chung-yong, Koo Ja-cheol, Son Heung-min (Ji Dong-won 73); Kim Shin-wook (Kim Bo-kyung 66)

Hong Jeong-ho

Referee: Williams (Aus)

June 26, 2014

ALGERIA (0) 1

Slimani 60

RUSSIA (1) 1

Kokorin 6

Arena da Baixada, Curitiba
Att: 39,311

HISTORY MAKERS

Algeria qualified for the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time with the point they needed to hold on to second place.

KEY MOMENTS

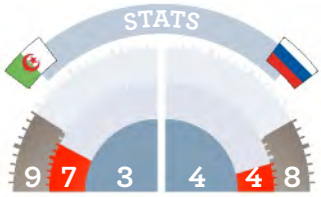
0-1 Aleksandr Kokorin headed home Dmitri Kombarov's cross.

1-1 Igor Akinfeev missed Yacine Brahimi's free-kick, leaving Islam Slimani to head in.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Islam Slimani (Algeria)

The Sporting Lisbon striker confirmed his growing reputation with a well-taken goal.



MATTER OF FACT

Algeria's progress meant two Africa teams in the last 16 for the first time.

TALKING POINT

Russia's Fabio Capello was the highest-paid coach at the tournament, but he failed to send out a team that could challenge for the last 16. Before flying to Brazil he extended his contract until 2018, when Russia host the next World Cup. But poor performances in this tournament will have drastically reduced the chances of Capello seeing out that new deal.

WHO SAID WHAT

"I am very proud, we played a heroic match and we deserved to qualify. We've progressed so much over the past three years

Algeria coach **Vahid Halilhodzic**

ALGERIA (4-2-3-1)

M'Bolhi; Mandi, Belkalem, Halliche, Mesbah; Medjani, Bentaleb; Feghouli, Brahimi (Yebda 71), Djabou (Ghilas 77); Slimani (Soudani 90)

Mesbah, Ghilas, Cadamuro (unused sub)

RUSSIA (4-2-3-1)

Akinfeev; Kozlov, Berezutski, Ignashevich, Kombarov; Glushakov (Denisov 46), Fayzulin; Samedov, Kokorin, Shatov (Dzagoev 67), Kerzhakov (Kanunnikov 81)

Kombarov, Kozlov

Referee: Cakir (Turkey)

Happy..Algeria coach Vahid Halilhodzic

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After leaving Brazil, Holland coach Louis Van Gaal took up his new role in charge of Manchester United. Nick Bidwell reports

THE NEW CHOSEN ONE

Condemned in the 1970s by legendary Austrian coach Ernst Happel for being too slow to call the shots when playing in midfield for Dutch side Sparta Rotterdam, technical-area groundbreaker and new Manchester United manager Aloysius Paulus Maria van Gaal has certainly proved more sprightly in the role of team and system builder, tactician, attacking football devotee and serial collector of trophies.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF KING LOUIS

1951	1986	1987	1988	1991	1997
Born in Amsterdam on August 8	Becomes player-assistant coach at AZ	Playing career (Antwerp, Telstar, Sparta, AZ) ends	Joins Ajax as assistant coach	Steps up to role of Ajax head coach	Appointed coach of Barcelona

Frequently viewed through the prism of his alleged arrogance, rudeness and repeated clashes with the press and Dutch icon Johan Cruyff, Van Gaal would never pass a popularity test. But even his most obtuse critics would have to admit his strengths as a top-level coach: the intense commitment to excellence, his analytical ability, a relentless drive to win, his teaching ability on the training ground and a flair for sorting the wheat from the chaff in a squad.

At every club side he has previously taken charge of – Ajax, Barcelona, AZ and Bayern Munich - success has ensued; and however dysfunctional Manchester United were last term under the hapless David Moyes – dubbed "the Chosen One" by United fans after he succeeded Alex Ferguson last summer – who would bet against the Amsterdam native promptly repairing the Old Trafford damage?

Opponents...Van Gaal (right) in action for Sparta against Cruyff and Ajax in 1982

Outstanding work

On guiding unfashionable AZ to the Dutch title in 2009 Van Gaal declared "I am the best" – and the facts bear him out. Domestic championships in Holland, Spain and Germany; his outstanding work with Holland's national team at this summer's World Cup; and, last but by no means least, the wonderful Ajax dynasty he created in his first spell at the helm.

Having been an influential assistant coach at AZ and Ajax – serving under Spitz Kohn and Leo Beenhakker at the latter – Van Gaal took full control of the Amsterdam club in 1991 when Beenhakker left for Real Madrid. And for the next half-dozen years the achievements just kept coming: the UEFA Cup in 1992, three straight Eredivisie titles (1994, 1995 and 1996), the 1995 Champions League – when Ajax beat Milan in the Final in Vienna – and Intercontinental Cup, plus a Champions League runners-up spot after losing on penalties to Juventus the following year.

The Ajax team that conquered Europe in the 1994-95 season is considered one of the finest club sides in the history of the modern game, and as the architect of that sleek and intelligent winning machine Van Gaal fully deserves to join the ranks of the managerial immortals.

There was so much to admire in a team that had an average age of 23 – the speed and precision of their passing; the way they dominated possession; their almost telepathic understanding; their intelligence and technical qualities; the way they maintained numerical superiority in all areas of the pitch; the players' near-perfect drilling.

Using a fluid and flexible 4-3-3 formation featuring veteran centre-back Frank Rijkaard in the pulpit and a host of brilliant young guns – notably Clarence Seedorf, Edgar Davids, Jari Litmanen, the De Boer twins and Marc Overmars – the Ajax class of 1994-95 were a sight to behold, earning praise from deep football thinkers all over the world.

> "They did everything a football team should do perfectly"
>
> Pep Guardiola on Van Gaal's Ajax side

Current Bayern Munich boss, Pep Guardiola – who played under Van Gaal at Barcelona from 1997 to 2000 – does not hesitate to name that team as one of his all-time favourites, saying "In my eyes, they did everything a football team should do perfectly", while ex-Real Madrid coach Jorge Valdano simply could not contain himself after losing to Van Gaal's side in the 1995-96 Champions League group

2000	2002	2005	2009	2012	2014
Named coach of Holland	Returns to Barcelona	Made coach of AZ	Joins Bayern Munich	Holland boss for a second time	Takes charge of Manchester United

stage. The former Real and Argentina forward enthused: "Ajax are not only the team of the Nineties, they are approaching football utopia.

"Their concept of the game is exquisite, yet they have a physical superiority as well. They are 'Beauty and the Beast'."

Soulless and sterile

It is a pity that so many in Holland do not share the same reverence for LVG and his methods as the likes of Guardiola and Valdano. For a large sub-section of the Dutch football commentariat, Van Gaal's "system" with that Ajax side was soulless and sterile. Too much script, too much operating manual and far too little individualism and spontaneity.

And the critics may have had a point. The only way ahead with Van Gaal's Ajax was to get with the programme and stick religiously to the coach's highly mechanised version of the "Beautiful Game". This meant possession, possession and possession; the team moving in set patterns; a disdain for dribbling; the immediate switching of play from one flank to another when a "roadblock" developed; and a ban on wide midfielders overlapping the wingers.

"In Holland we are system mad and the world doesn't know it," complained ex-Ajax centre-forward turned media pundit Jan Mulder in David Winner's award-winning examination of Dutch football, *Brilliant Orange*. "The world thinks we always play attacking football. But we play with the handbrake on.

"All this passing at the back...tick-tock, backwards, sideways, tick-tock...it's boring. Too much fear, too much caution.

"They [Ajax] won everything they could win, but the football of Van Gaal in those years was dull football. Dull! I like Van Gaal personally but not as a coach. He got results at Ajax but they didn't play as well as one thinks. They outplayed opponents, but it had no soul.

"Van Gaal is a teacher but doesn't give his players much freedom."

In the world of Van Gaal, the collective is paramount and there is no room for passengers or prima donnas; just 11 footballers who each perform specific tasks and work together in the most synchronized of fashions.

Best...*World Soccer's* Gavin Hamilton presents Van Gaal with our World Manager of the Year award in 1996

"Football is a team sport and members of the team are therefore dependent on each other," he explained in *The Coaching Philosophies of Louis Van Gaal and the Ajax Coaches* by Henny Kormelink and Tjeu Seeverens. "If certain players do not carry out their tasks properly on the pitch, then their colleagues will suffer.

"This means that every player has to carry out his basic tasks to the best of his ability and this requires a disciplined approach on the pitch."

Discipline on and off the field, always has formed the basis of the Van Gaal creed and woe betide any player who, willingly or subconsciously, does not come up to scratch in the behaviour and attitude department. Only two rules apply: you do not write on the walls, and you obey all the rules – especially those regarding punctuality, being ready for a training session half-hour before its start time, keeping personal effects neat and tidy, always displaying high levels of intensity and concentration in practice, sitting down to eat together and not reading a paper while doing so, and eating and drinking healthily.

Rolled down socks and untucked shirts were no-no fashion statements when he was in charge at Ajax – "You stand out

from other players through your performance" – and at Bayern he spectacularly went to war with Luca Toni for daring to slouch in his seat in the club cafeteria.

"He always wanted the players to remain seated until everyone had finished breakfast," Toni told *Sport Bild* three years ago. "But Italians only drink coffee for breakfast, so I finished early and made myself comfortable. All of a sudden, the coach appeared behind me, started screaming and pulled me up. He told me he was in charge and I should leave if I didn't like it.

"I had never experienced someone like him before. I remember how he once tried to make it clear that he wasn't afraid to drop the so-called big names. He just dropped his trousers to show us he had the balls to do it. He's a crazy coach who doesn't know how to treat his players.

"Guys like Felix Magath and him are coaches from another generation and can't deal with the way players behave these days. Modern players want to communicate with their coach but that's not possible with Van Gaal. Everything goes the way he wants it to go."

Europe's best...Ajax celebrate winning the Champions League

Teacher...on the sidelines at Barcelona with future Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho (centre)

Disciplinarian...in charge at Bayern

Authoritarian figure

Whenever he is accused of playing the "great dictator", Van Gaal always forcefully refutes the charge, insisting that his form of management has plenty of collaborative input.

"The media frequently portray me as an authoritarian figure, who thinks he knows it all," he says. "But the people who work with me daily know better.

"I learn something new every day from the people around me. I ask everyone to say what he feels. I talk to the players every day. It is then my task, as the leader of that team, to make a selection from all the information available and to decide on the course to be taken. But then I expect everyone to support this course in public. To do otherwise is asking for problems."

For all the supposed lines of communication, his reputation remains that of the autocrat who regularly butts heads with star names. He and French attacking maverick Franck Ribery were at daggers drawn throughout his tenure at Bayern Munich, from 2009 to 2011, and anyone attending Barcelona training sessions during the Dutchman's first spell at the Camp Nou, from 1997 to 2000, would have been astounded at the ferocious tongue-lashings he aimed at Brazilian superstar Rivaldo, who was the European Footballer of the Year.

Angling for a switch from the left side of attack to a central playmaking role, Rivaldo must have fancied his chances of forcing the coach's hand. But he had miscalculated and was instantly thrown off the team. The Brazilian had assumed he was the lead wolf; Van Gaal thought otherwise.

"Yesterday Rivaldo spoke to me and said he no longer wanted to play on the left," Van Gaal told the Catalan media. "Because of that he's been left out of the squad. It was a surprise for me and a surprise for his team-mates.

"It's a great shame. Barcelona has always had the philosophy that the club comes ahead of everyone – the players, the coach and all the employees."

There is absolutely no possibility of player power in the Van Gaal kingdom. He does not massage egos or dispense special favours, and as long as he can have his first XI on-message, plus a few others, he is happy to leave the non-believers behind, even to the point of making their lives hell.

"Barcelona was the worst experience of my life," recalls French striker Christophe Dugarry, who in the 1997-98 season was unable to convince the Dutchman. "Van Gaal was foul and pedantic. Whether I was good or bad, he moaned. I used to leave training with tears in my eyes. To play football has to be a pleasure. But there it was a nightmare."

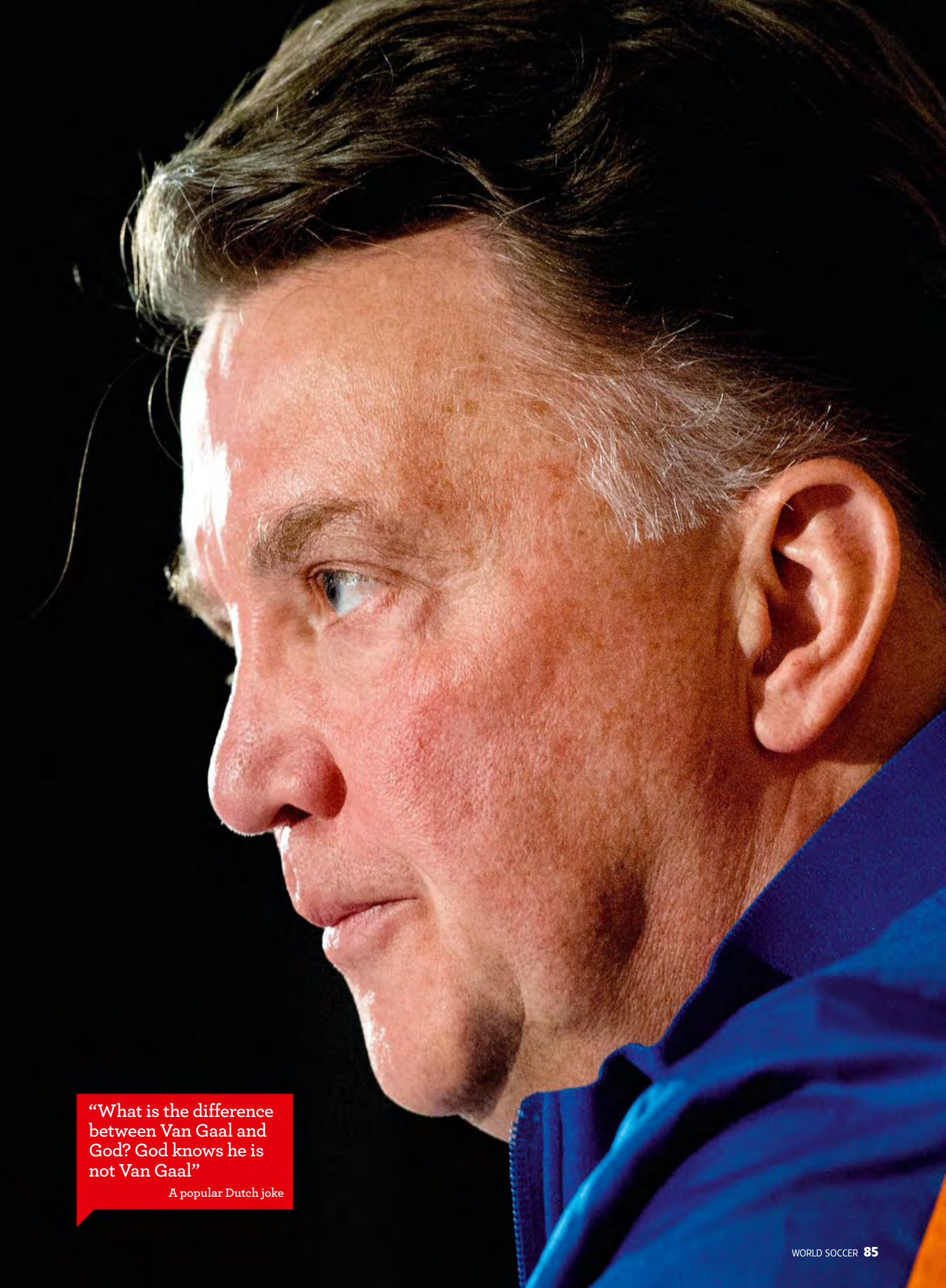
Playing support

But if Van Gaal really is a monster, an autocrat and an implacable taskmaster all rolled into one – and one that exclusively rules by fear – players would be too uptight to perform. And for all the bust-ups, there are countless instances of pros totally buying into his message.

Ajax's golden generation of Patrick Kluivert, Litmanen, the De Boer twins and Michael Reiziger all willingly rejoined him at Barcelona, and tempted to resign thanks to AZ's poor results in the 2008-09 campaign he was talked out of it by the playing squad, with the volte-face paving the way for a closing of the ranks and the conquest of the Dutch league title 14 months later.

All manner of myths surround Van Gaal and one of the most persistent is that he is dogmatically wedded to 4-3-3. Yet fitting the system to the players, rather than vice-versa, he used a 2-3-2-3 at Barcelona, went with a counter-attacking 4-4-2 when AZ won the Eredivisie, and successfully implemented a 3-4-1-2 to thrash holders Spain 5-1 at this summer's World Cup.

Along with all the silverware and a place in history as a tactical visionary, Van Gaal's other claim to fame is his excellent record as a promoter of young talent. Any kid he considers to be made of the right stuff is invariably fast-tracked into the first



"What is the difference between Van Gaal and God? God knows he is not Van Gaal"

A popular Dutch joke

Staying put...Danny Blind (left) and Kluivert (right), Van Gaal's assistants at the World Cup, are not joining him at United

team and over the years such bravery has reaped a rare harvest of brilliance at Ajax and kick-started the careers of Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Victor Valdes at Barcelona, and Thomas Muller and Holger Badstuber at Bayern.

It's widely thought that Van Gaal's preference for working with young players stems from their malleability, their openness to new ideas. But it might just be a product of his past, his work at the Ajax prodigy factory and the dozen years he spent in the real world as a teacher.

For a large portion of his playing career – which took him to Ajax, Royal Antwerp, Telstar, Sparta and AZ – he doubled up as a physical education master at the Don Bosco School in Amsterdam.

> "Too many people have the wrong impression of him"
>
> Van Gaal's former team-mate at Royal Antwerp, Roger Van Gool

Displaying the drive and energy which has characterised his coaching odyssey, his daily regime in those days was definitely not for the faint-hearted.

Rising at the crack of dawn, he would take classes in Amsterdam, many of them with children with learning difficulties, then jump back in his car to drive long distance to football training. Typical Van Gaal: workaholic; totally committed.

With a nod and a wink towards the high-profile destiny which awaited him, Van Gaal's time as thoughtful and technically gifted midfield general was littered with signs of leadership ability. Even as a 19-year-old with Belgian outfit Royal Antwerp he would point out team weaknesses to coach Guy Thys.

As captain of Sparta he constantly irritated irrepressible Welsh boss Barry Hughes with a constant stream of "advice" and served as a highly effective head of the Dutch players union.

"Too many people have the wrong impression of him," says ex-Belgium, Club Brugge and Cologne striker Roger Van Gool, who played alongside him at Antwerp. "Of course, some will not like him, but he has a good character. He wants to help people. He can listen."

Constant clashes

Needless to say, Van Gaal's single-mindedness can cause him difficulties. Despite masterminding two La Liga titles in his first two seasons at Barcelona, his power base was whittled away by constant clashes with the local media over his reliance on Dutch personnel – eight players from the low lands proving far too many in the bastion of Catalan identity – and in May 2000 he was gone, uttering the immortal adieu: "Friends of the press, I am leaving. Congratulations."

His reign at Bayern was the same story of romance, betrothal and a quickie divorce; elevated to cult hero after steering the Bavarians to a domestic double and Champions League silver in his first campaign, but then swiftly losing his grip in the second and becoming increasingly isolated as players and club hierarchy tired of his "I know best" routine.

Still going strong at the age of 62, Van Gaal is a man who will not be knocked down. Yes, he has had his share of personal and professional setbacks, not least the death of his first wife, Fernanda, to cancer in 1994 and his rejection as a youngster at Ajax. Then there was the six-month disaster of his second tour of duty in the Barca hot seat and his failure to take Holland to the 2002 World Cup.

But new challenges and new frontiers have always been his lifeblood, and after picking himself up and dusting himself off he simply goes again.

The competitive fires burn as brightly as ever. Next stop: Old Trafford. **WS**

Old friends...Van Gaal will link up with Holland striker Robin Van Persie at United

CLUB MANAGERIAL HONOURS

AJAX

Eredivisie
1994, 1995, 1996

Dutch Cup
1993

Dutch Super Cup
1993, 1994, 1995

Champions League
1995

UEFA Cup
1992

UEFA Super Cup
1995

Intercontinental Cup
1995

BARCELONA

La Liga
1998, 1999

Spanish Cup
1998

UEFA Super Cup
1997

AZ

Eredivisie
2009

BAYERN MUNICH

Bundesliga
2010

German Cup
2010

German Super Cup
2010

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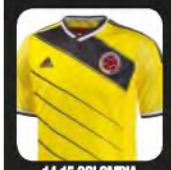
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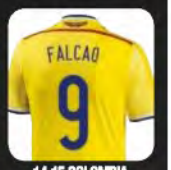

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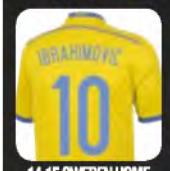

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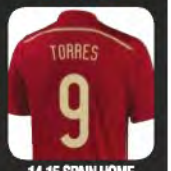

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Challenge...Japan's Shinji Okazaki clashes with Zambia goalkeeper Toaster Nsabata in the United States

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Warm-up...Costa Rica (in white) taking on Ireland

Celebration...Serbia score against Panama

World Service

CROATIA

Vukojevic calls it quits

Ognjen Vukojevic, who was an unused sub in Brazil, has quit international football. The 30-year-old Dynamo Kiev midfielder won 55 caps.

FRANCE

New under-21 boss

Pierre Mankowski was appointed coach of the national under-21 side after Willy Sagnol left to take charge of Ligue 1 side Bordeaux. Mankowski led France to success at the 2013 Under-20 World Cup in Turkey.

ITALY

Pirlo may return

Andrea Pirlo says he may reverse his decision to quit international football following Cesare Prandelli's resignation as coach.

"If the new national coach thinks he needs me, I will happily remain available," admitted the 35-year-old Juventus playmaker.

Youngsters' boss...Mankowski

NIGERIA

Captain retires on 100

Joseph Yobo, who skippered Nigeria in the World Cup, announced his international retirement after the "Super Eagles" were knocked out by France in the round of 16. The game saw the 33-year-old become the first Nigerian to make 100 appearances for his country.

QATAR

Asian Cup warm-up

Quarter-finalists when they staged the last Asian Cup in 2011, Qatar will prepare for

Internationals

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Preliminary round

Group 1

May 29: Montserrat 1 US Virgin Islands 0.
June 1: Bonaire 2 US Virgin Islands 1.
June 3: Bonaire 0 Montserrat 0.

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonaire (Q)	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Montserrat	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
US Virgin Is	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group 2

May 29: French Guiana 6 British Virgin Islands 0; Aruba 1 Turks & Caicos Islands 0.
June 1: French Guiana 6 Turks & Caicos Islands 0; Aruba 7 British Virgin Islands 0.
June 3: British Virgin Islands 0 Turks & Caicos Islands 2; Aruba 0 French Guiana 2.

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fr Guiana (Q)	3	3	0	0	14	0	9
Aruba	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Turks & Caicos	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
British Virgin Is	3	0	0	3	0	15	0

Bonaire & French Guiana qualify for 1st round

FRIENDLIES

Thursday, May 29

May 29 - Kufstein, Austria
Cameroon 1 (Choupo-Moting 74)
Paraguay 2 (O Romero 4, Santa Cruz 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Schuttengruber (Aut)

May 29 - Washington DC, USA
Honduras 0
Turkey 2 (Erdinc 70, Caner 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,723. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)

Friday, May 30

May 30 - St Louis, USA
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Dzeko 17, 53)
Ivory Coast 1 (Drogba 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,101. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)

May 30 - Santiago
Chile 3 (Diaz 26, Vargas 59, 77)
Egypt 2 (M Salah 11, Kamar 15)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Maldonado (Bol)
Chile: Bravo - Jara, Medel, Albornoz, Isla (Fuenzalida 75), Diaz (Mena 46), Gutierrez, Beausejour (Pinilla 53), Aranguiz (Carmona 85), Sanchez, Vargas (Orellana 85).

May 30 - London
England 3 (Sturridge 32, Cahill 65, Jagielka 70)
Peru 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 83,578. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
England: Hart - Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka (Smalling 73), Baines (Stones 75), Gerrard (Wilshere 64), Henderson, Lallana (Milner 73), Rooney (Sterling 66), Welbeck, Sturridge (Barkley 82).

May 30 - Hartberg, Austria
Iran 1 (Ansarifard 56)
Angola 1 (Silva 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Harkam (Aut)

May 30 - Seville
Spain 2 (Fernando Torres pen 51, Iniesta 84)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Jemini (Alb)
Spain: Reina - Azpilicueta, Pique (Albiol 46), Javi Martinez, Moreno, Xavi (Busquets 60), Iturraspe, Cazorla (Silva 60), Mata (Iniesta 46), Fernando Torres (Fabregas 60), Pedro (Deulofeu 79).

May 30 - Lucerne
Switzerland 1 (Drmic 84)
Jamaica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Doyle (Rol)
Switzerland: Benaglio (Sommer 46) - Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Senderos, Ziegler (Rodriguez 83), Behrami (Inler 46), Dzemaili, Xhaka, Shaqiri (Fernandes 72), Mehmedi (Stocker 64), Seferovic (Drmic 46).

May 30 - Montevideo
Uruguay 1 (Stuani 61)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Lugano, Coates (Gimenez 46), Caceres (A Pereira 71), Ramirez (Lodeiro 64), Gargano (Perez 74), Arevalo, C Rodriguez, Forlan (Stuani 46), Cavani (Hernandez 64).

Saturday, May 31

May 31 - Sion, Switzerland
Algeria 3 (Belkalem 13, Ghilas 21, Slimani 40)
Armenia 1 (Sarkisov 46)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Amhoff (Swi)
Algeria: Zemmamouche - Mandi, Belkalem, Halliche, Mesbah, Guedioura (Taider 61), Lacen (Bentaleb 61), Ghilas (Feghouli 70), Brahimi (Medjani 61), Mahrez (Djabou 70), Slimani (Soudani 75).

May 31 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Colombia 2 (Gutierrez 12, Bacca 45)
Senegal 2 (Konate 47, Ndoye 52)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Trucco (Arg)
Sent off: Seck (Senegal) 66min
Colombia: Mondragon - Zuniga (Arias 46), Valdes (Balanta 65), Yepes (Zapata 46), Armero, Aguilar, Sanchez (Mejia 46), Quintero, Ibarbo, Gutierrez (Ramos 46), Bacca (Martinez 65).

May 31 - Osijek
Croatia 2 (Perisic 15, 64)
Mali 1 (C Diarra 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Vad (Hun)

May 31 - Rotterdam
Holland 1 (Van Persie 5)
Ghana 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,117. **Ref:** Taborda (Por)
Holland: Cillessen - Janmaat, Vlaar, De Vrij, Martins Indi, Blind, N De Jong, Sneijder (Lens 82), De Guzman, Van Persie (Depay 74), Robben.

May 31 - London
Italy 0
Republic of Ireland 0
Att: 22,879. **Ref:** Oliver (Eng)
Italy: Sirigu - Darmian (Abate 88), Paletta, Bonucci, De Sciglio, Montolivo (Aquilani 15; Parolo 37), Thiago Motta (De Rossi 62), Marchisio, Verratti, Immobile (Cassano 57), Rossi (Cerci 71).

May 31 - Arlington, USA
Mexico 3 (Montes 33, Fabian 69, Dos Santos 76)
Ecuador 1 (E Valencia 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
Mexico: Ochoa - Rodriguez, Marquez (Salcido 46), Moreno, Guardado (Layun 50), Aguilar, Montes (Fabian 41), Herrera, Pena (Vazquez 46), Dos Santos (Jimenez 80), Peralta (Hernandez 67).

May 31 - Oslo
Norway 1 (Konradsen 77)
Russia 1 (Shatov 3)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,486. **Ref:** Klossner (Swi)

May 31 - Lisbon
Portugal 0
Greece 0
Att: 33,556. **Ref:** Blom (Hol)
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis, Manolas (Vyntra 71), Papastathopoulos (Moras 44), Holebas, Maniatis, Tziolis (Karagounis 46), Katsouranis, Salpingidis (Fetfatzidis 63), Mitroglou (Gekas 63), Samaras (Christodoulopoulos 86).

Sunday, June 1

June 1 - Nice
France 1 (Griezmann 82)
Paraguay 1 (V Caceres 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,200. **Ref:** Clos Gomez (Spa)
France: Lloris - Sagna, Koscielny, Sakho (Mangala 46), Evra, Pogba, Cabaye (Mavuba 46), Matuidi (Griezmann 64), Valbuena (Sissoko 72), Giroud, Remy (Grenier 64).

June 1 - Monchengladbach
Germany 2 (Muller 66, Schurrle 71)
Cameroon 2 (Eto'o 62, Choupo-Moting 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,250. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Germany: Weidenfeller - Boateng, Mertesacker, Hummels, Durm (Howedes 85), Khedira (Kramer 73), Kroos, Muller, Ozil (Podolski 64), Reus, Gotze (Schurrle 58).

June 1 - Houston, USA
Honduras 2 (Espinoza 47, Costly 82)
Israel 4 (Zahavi 34, Figueroa og 52, Damari 60, Vermouth 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Morrison (Jam)

June 1 - Stockholm
Sweden 0
Belgium 2 (Lukaku 34, E Hazard 78)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 24,732. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vermaelen, Witsel, De Bruyne, Mertens (Chadli 68), E Hazard (Fellaini 79), Dembele, Lukaku (Origi 73).

June 1 - Harrison
United States 2 (F Johnson 26, Dempsey 52)
Turkey 1 (Selcuk Inan pen 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,762. **Ref:** Jedidi (Tun)
United States: Howard (Guzan 46) - F Johnson (Yedlin 64), Cameron, Besler (Brooks 46), Chandler, Zusi (Diskerud 69), Jones (Beckerman 46), Bradley, Davis (Green 64), Altidore, Dempsey.

Monday, June 2

June 2 - Tampa, USA
Costa Rica 1 (Ruiz 31)
Japan 3 (Endo 60, Kagawa 80, Kakitani 90+2)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,106. **Ref:** Penso (USA)
Costa Rica: Navas - Gamboa, Miller, Gonzalez, Umana, Diaz, Borges, Tejeda (Cubero 73), Ruiz, Campbell (Brenes 83), Bolanos (Urena 65).

Tuesday, June 3

June 3 - Goiania
Brazil 4 (Neymar 27, Daniel Alves 40, Hulk 46, Willian 73)
Panama 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,663. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Daniel Alves (Maicon 46), David Luiz (Henrique 70), Dante, Marcelo (Maxwell 46), Ramires (Hernanes 46), Luiz Gustavo, Hulk, Oscar (Willian 63), Neymar, Fred (Jo 61).

June 3 - Chester, USA
Greece 0
Nigeria 0
Att: 10,131. **Ref:** Bonilla (ESv)
Greece: Glykos (Kapino 46) - Vyntra, Moras, Manolas, Tzavellas, Samaris (Tziolis 63), Karagounis (Kone 46), Tachtsidis, Fetfatzidis (Samaras 74), Gekas (Mitroglou 62), Christodoulopoulos (Salpingidis 80).
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ambrose, Omeruo, Oboabona (Yobo 46), Echiejile (Odunlami 41), Musa (Uchebo 46), Mikel, Moses, Onazi, Odemwingie (Babatunde 54), Emenike (Nwofor 76).

June 3 - Chicago, USA
Mexico 0
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Hajrovic 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 51,240. **Ref:** Reyna (Gtm)
Mexico: Talavera - Ponce, Moreno (Brizuela 46), Reyes, Layun, Vazquez, Salcido (Rodriguez 58), Herrera (Dos Santos 71), Pena (Guardado 63), Jimenez (Pulido 58), Hernandez (Fabian 81).

June 3 - Lucerne
Switzerland 2 (Lichtsteiner 78, Shaqiri 83)
Peru 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Switzerland: Benaglio - Lichtsteiner (Lang 90+1), Schar, Von Bergen, Rodriguez, Mehmedi (Gavranovic 87), Behrami (Dzemaili 46), Inler, Stocker (Barnetta 72), Xhaka (Shaqiri 64), Drmic (Seferovic 64).

Wednesday, June 4

June 4 - Geneva, Switzerland
Algeria 2 (Bentaleb 22, Soudani 68)
Romania 1 (Chipciu 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hanni (Swi)
Algeria: M'Bolhi - Mostefa, Bougherra, Cadamuro, Ghoulam, Taider (Yebda 67), Medjani (Halliche 90+2), Bentaleb (Lacen 83), Feghouli (Brahimi 83), Soudani (Slimani 75), Djabou (Mahrez 67).

June 4 - Buenos Aires
Argentina 3 (Palacio 45+1, Mascherano 50, Rodriguez 64)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)
Argentina: Romero - Campagnaro, F Fernandez, Demichelis (Basanta 46), Rojo, Gago (Biglia 46), Mascherano (Alvarez 70), Di Maria (Perez 63), Messi, Lavezzi (Rodriguez 56), Palacio (A Fernandez 76).

June 4 - Valparaiso
Chile 2 (Vargas 79, Pinilla 82)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Staying put...Keane will retain his position with the national team

January's tournament in Australia with friendlies against Uzbekistan on October 4 and the 2015 hosts 10 days later.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Keane still on side

Assistant manager Roy Keane, who has taken up a similar position with Aston Villa, retains his role with the national team.

TOGO

Tchakala steps up

Former assistant Tchanile Tchakala was promoted to the position of national coach, replacing Didier Six of France, whose two-year contract ended in January.

Tchakala is tasked with qualifying for next year's African Nations Cup, starting with games against Guinea and Ghana in September.

Chile: Herrera - Medel (Pinilla 75), Silva, Rojas, Isla, Carmona (Aranguiz 59), Diaz (Gutierrez 84), Mena, Valdivia (Vidal 75), Paredes (Vargas 59), Orellana (Sanchez 59).

June 4 - Miami, USA
Ecuador 2 (E Valencia 8, Arroyo 70)
England 2 (Rooney 29, Lambert 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 21,534. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Sent off: A Valencia (Ecuador) 79min
England: Foster - Milner, Jones, Smalling, Shaw (Stones 74), Lampard, Wilshere (Lallana 87), Oxlade-Chamberlain (Flanagan 63), Barkley (Henderson 84), Rooney (Sterling 64), Lambert (Welbeck 84). *Sent off: Sterling 79min.*

June 4 - Frisco, USA
El Salvador 1 (Alvarez pen 75)
Ivory Coast 2 (Gervinho 9, Drogba 43)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 18,578. **Ref:** Anderson (PR)

June 4 - Amsterdam
Holland 2 (Robben 32, Lens 76)
Wales 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Yildirim (Tur)
Holland: Cillessen - Janmaat, De Vrij, Vlaar, Martins Indi, Fer (Wijnaldum 46), N De Jong (Huntelaar 78), Blind, Sneijder, Robben, Van Persie (Lens 46).

June 4 - Perugia
Italy 1 (Marchisio 9)
Luxembourg 1 (Chanot 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Italy: Buffon - Abate, Bonucci (Ranocchia 79), Chiellini, De Sciglio, De Rossi, Verratti (Cassano 55), Pirlo (Aquilani 72), Marchisio (Parolo 86), Candreva (Insigne 79), Balotelli (Cerci 79).

June 4 - Montevideo
Uruguay 2 (Cavani 37, Stuani 77)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira (Fucile 46), Lugano, Godin (Gimenez 46; Coates 81), Caceres, Ramirez (Stuani 46), Gargano (A Gonzalez 46), Arevalo, C Rodriguez (A Pereira 75), Forlan, Cavani.

Friday, June 6

June 6 - Sao Paulo
Brazil 1 (Fred 58)
Serbia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 67,042. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Daniel Alves (Maicon 72), Thiago Silva, David Luiz, Marcelo (Maxwell 76), Paulinho (Fernandinho 65), Luiz Gustavo, Oscar (Willian 46), Hulk, Neymar (Bernard 81), Fred (Jo 75).

June 6 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Colombia 3 (Rodriguez pen 42, Cuadrado pen 83, Guarin 89)
Jordan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Diaz (Arg)
Sent off: Bani Yaseen (Jordan) 82min
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga (Arias 62), Zapata, Yepes (Valdes 62), Balanta (Bacca 46), Armero, Guarin, Sanchez (Aguilar 71), Rodriguez (Cuadrado 46), Ibarbo, Gutierrez (Ramos 46).

June 6 - Chester, USA
Costa Rica 1 (Borges pen 63)
Republic of Ireland 1 (Doyle 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Castro (Hnd)
Costa Rica: Navas (Pemberton 46) - Mora, Gonzalez, Duarte, Umana, Diaz, Borges, Cubero, Urena (Brenes 77), Campbell (Calvo 86), Ruiz (Bolanos 75). *Sent off: Gonzalez 41min.*

June 6 - Salvador, Brazil
Croatia 1 (Jelavic 58)
Australia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nascimento (Bra)

June 6 - Mainz
Germany 6 (Schurrle 52, Podolski 72, Howedes 73, Klose 76, Gotze 82, 89)
Armenia 1 (Mkhitaryan pen 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
Germany: Weidenfeller - Boateng (Grosskreutz 67), Mertesacker, Hummels, Howedes, Lahm (Ozil 46), Khedira (Schweinsteiger 59), Kroos, Schurrle (Gotze 75), Reus (Podolski 45), Muller (Klose 67).

June 6 - Harrison, USA
Greece 2 (Kone 21, Katsouranis 54)
Bolivia 1 (Cardozo 70)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,024. **Ref:** Santos (PR)
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis (Tachtsidis 59), Manolas (Vyntra 46), Moras, Holebas, Maniatis, Katsouranis, Kone (Karagounis 59), Salpingidis (Fetfatzidis 59), Gekas (Mitroglou 65), Samaras (Christodoulopoulos 78).

June 6 - Tampa, USA
Japan 4 (Honda pen 39, 76, Kagawa 74, Okubo 90)
Zambia 3 (C Katongo 8, Sinkala 29, Musonda 89)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 7,275. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)

June 6 - Foxborough, USA
Mexico 0
Portugal 1 (Bruno Alves 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,292. **Ref:** Solis (CR)
Mexico: Corona (Ochoa 46) - Rodriguez, Marquez, Moreno, Aguilar, Vazquez, Herrera (Aquino 85), Guardado (Fabian 78), Layun, Dos Santos (Hernandez 60), Peralta (Pulido 78).

June 6 - Moscow
Russia 2 (V Berezutsky 29, Zhirkov 58)
Morocco 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)

Saturday, June 7

June 7 - La Plata
Argentina 2 (Alvarez 12, Messi 76)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 53,000. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
Argentina: Romero - F Fernandez, Mascherano (Mammana 77), Basanta, Rojo, Rodriguez (Di Maria 57), A Fernandez (Gago 57), Biglia (Campagnaro 14), Perez, Alvarez (Messi 57), Lavezzi (Aguero 57).

June 7 - Brussels
Belgium 1 (Mertens 89)
Tunisia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Sent off: Jemaa (Tunisia) 64min
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld (Vanden Borre 46), Kompany, Van Buyten, Vertonghen, Fellaini (Mertens 46), E Hazard (Januzaj 74), Mirallas (Chadli 62), Defour, Dembele, Origi (Lukaku 62; Witsel 90+1).

June 7 - Yaounde
Cameroon 1 (Salli 30)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tsiba (Con)

June 7 - Landover, USA
El Salvador 0
Spain 2 (Villa 60, 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Toledo (USA)
Spain: Casillas (De Gea 82) - Juanfran, Javi Martinez, Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba, Koke, Xabi Alonso (Busquets 67), Fabregas (Villa 46), Pedro (Cazorla 46), Diego Costa (Xavi 73), Iniesta (Silva 46).

June 7 - Miami, USA
England 0
Honduras 0
Att: 45,379. **Ref:** Salazar (USA)
Sent off: Beckeles (Honduras) 65min
England: Hart (Forster 75) - Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka, Baines, Gerrard (Wilshere 46), Henderson (Lampard 83), Welbeck (Lambert 79), Rooney (Barkley 46), Lallana, Sturridge.

June 7 - Jacksonville
United States 2 (Altidore 31, 68)
Nigeria 1 (Moses pen 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,033. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
United States: Howard - F Johnson, Cameron, Besler, Beasley (Chandler 75), Bedoya (Zusi 60), Beckerman (Diskerud 72), Jones, Bradley, Dempsey (Wondolowski 87), Altidore (Gonzalez 80).
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ambrose, Oboabona, Yobo, Oshaniwa, Mikel (Gabriel 46), Azeez (Uchebo 74), Onazi, Odemwingie (Babatunde 46), Moses, Ameobi (Emenike 64).

Sunday, June 8

June 8 - Lille
France 8 (Cabaye 17, Matuidi 20, 66, Benzema 38, 63, Giroud 53, Griezmann 77, 89)
Jamaica 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 49,626. **Ref:** Zwayer (Ger)
France: Lloris - Debuchy (Sagna 46), Varane, Sakho, Evra, Sissoko, Cabaye (Mavuba 59), Matuidi (Pogba 72), Valbuena (Remy 80), Giroud (Griezmann 72), Benzema (Schneiderlin 87).

June 8 - Sao Paulo, Brazil
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Iran 2 (Hajsafy 45, Ghoochannejhad 54)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)

Monday, June 9

June 9 - Miami, USA
Ghana 4 (J Ayew 11, 53, 89, Gyan 44)
South Korea 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)

Tuesday, June 10

June 10 - East Rutherford, USA
Republic of Ireland 1 (McClean 52)
Portugal 5 (Hugo Almeida 2, 37, Keogh og 20, Vieirinha 78, Fabio Coentrao 83)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Toledo (USA)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Ruben Amorim (Miguel Veloso 81), Ricardo Costa, Neto (Pepe 66), Fabio Coentrao, Joao Moutinho, William, Raul Meireles (Andre Almeida 66), Varela (Vieirinha 73), Hugo Almeida (Helder Postiga 66), Cristiano Ronaldo (Nani 66).

Other friendly results

May 29: Saudi Arabia 0 Georgia 2; Uzbekistan 0 Oman 1.
May 30: Austria 1 Iceland 1; Macedonia 0 Qatar 0; New Zealand 0 South Africa 0.
May 31: Albania 0 Romania 1; Panama 1 Serbia 1.
June 3: Czech Republic 1 Austria 2; Georgia 0 United Arab Emirates 1.
June 4: Gibraltar 1 Malta 0; Hungary 1 Albania 0; Iceland 1 Estonia 0; Jamaica 2 Egypt 2.
June 6: Poland 2 Lithuania 1.
June 7: Estonia 2 Tajikistan 1; Hungary 3 Kazakhstan 0.
June 8: San Marino 0 Albania 3.

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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ALGERIA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Rais M'BOLHI	(28) 25.04.86	CSKA Sofia (Bul)
1	Cedric SI MOHAMED	(29) 09.01.85	CS Constantine
16	Mohamed ZEMMAMOUCHE	(29) 19.03.85	USM Alger

DEFENDERS

4	Essaid BELKALEM	(25) 01.01.89	Watford (Eng)
2	Madjid BOUGHERRA	(31) 07.10.82	Lekhwiya (Qat)
17	Liassine CADAMURO	(26) 05.03.88	Real Sociedad (Spa)
3	Faouzi GHOULAM	(23) 01.02.91	Napoli (Ita)
5	Rafik HALLICHE	(27) 02.09.86	Academica (Por)
20	Aissa MANDI	(22) 22.10.91	Reims (Fra)
12	Carl MEDJANI	(29) 15.05.85	Monaco (Fra)
6	Djamel MESBAH	(29) 09.10.84	Parma (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

14	Nabil BENTALEB	(19) 24.11.94	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
11	Yacine BRAHIMI	(24) 08.02.90	Granada (Spa)
18	Abdelmoumene DJABOU	(27) 31.01.87	Club Africain (Tun)
10	Sofiane FEGHOULI	(24) 26.12.89	Valencia (Spa)
8	Medhi LACEN	(30) 15.05.84	Getafe (Spa)
21	Riyad MAHREZ	(23) 21.02.91	Leicester City (Eng)
22	Mehdi MOSTEFA	(30) 30.08.83	AC Ajaccio (Fra)
19	Saphir TAIDER	(22) 29.02.92	Internazionale (Ita)
7	Hassan YEBDA	(30) 14.05.84	Udinese (Ita)

FORWARDS

9	Nabil GHILAS	(24) 20.04.90	Porto (Por)
13	Islam SLIMANI	(25) 18.06.88	Sporting Lisbon (Por)
15	El Arbi Hillel SOUDANI	(26) 25.11.87	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)

COACH

Vahid HALILHODZIC (Bos)	(61) 15.10.52	

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

21	Mariano ANDUJAR	(30) 30.07.83	Catania (Ita)
12	Agustin ORION	(32) 26.07.81	Boca Juniors
1	Sergio ROMERO	(27) 22.02.87	Monaco (Fra)

DEFENDERS

23	Jose Maria BASANTA	(30) 03.04.84	Monterrey (Mex)
3	Hugo CAMPAGNARO	(33) 27.06.80	Internazionale (Ita)
15	Martin DEMICHELIS	(33) 20.12.80	Manchester City (Eng)
17	Federico FERNANDEZ	(25) 21.02.89	Napoli (Ita)
2	Ezequiel GARAY	(27) 10.10.86	Benfica (Por)
16	Marcos ROJO	(24) 20.03.90	Sporting Lisbon (Por)
4	Pablo ZABALETA	(29) 16.01.85	Manchester City (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

19	Ricardo ALVAREZ	(26) 12.04.88	Internazionale (Ita)
6	Lucas BIGLIA	(28) 30.01.86	Lazio (Ita)
7	Angel DI MARIA	(26) 14.02.88	Real Madrid (Spa)
13	Augusto FERNANDEZ	(28) 10.04.86	Celta Vigo (Spa)
5	Fernando GAGO	(28) 10.04.86	Boca Juniors
14	Javier MASCHERANO	(30) 08.06.84	Barcelona (Spa)
8	Enzo PEREZ	(28) 22.02.86	Benfica (Por)
11	Maxi RODRIGUEZ	(33) 02.01.81	Newell's Old Boys

FORWARDS

20	Sergio AGUERO	(26) 02.06.88	Manchester City (Eng)
9	Gonzalo HIGUAIN	(26) 10.12.87	Napoli (Ita)
22	Ezequiel LAVEZZI	(29) 03.05.85	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
10	Lionel MESSI	(26) 24.06.87	Barcelona (Spa)
18	Rodrigo PALACIO	(32) 05.02.82	Internazionale (Ita)

COACH

Alejandro SABELLA	(59) 05.11.54	

AUSTRALIA

GOALKEEPERS

18	Eugene GALEKOVIC	(33) 12.06.81	Adelaide United
12	Mitch LANGERAK	(25) 22.08.88	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
1	Mat RYAN	(22) 08.04.92	Club Brugge (Blg)

DEFENDERS

3	Jason DAVIDSON	(22) 29.06.91	Heracles (Hol)
2	Ivan FRANJIC	(26) 10.09.87	Brisbane Roar
19	Ryan McGOWAN	(24) 15.08.89	Shandong Luneng (Chn)
6	Matthew SPIRANOVIC	(25) 27.06.88	Western Sydney Wanderers
22	Alex WILKINSON	(29) 13.08.84	Jeonbuk Motors (Sko)
8	Bailey WRIGHT	(21) 28.07.92	Preston North End (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

13	Oliver BOZANIC	(25) 08.01.89	Lucerne (Swi)
23	Mark BRESCIANO	(34) 11.02.80	Al Gharafa (Qat)
10	Ben HALLORAN	(21) 14.06.92	Fortuna Dusseldorf (Ger)
16	James HOLLAND	(25) 15.05.89	Austria Vienna (Aut)
15	Mile JEDINAK	(29) 03.08.84	Crystal Palace (Eng)
21	Massimo LUONGO	(21) 25.09.92	Swindon Town (Eng)
17	Matt McKAY	(31) 11.01.83	Brisbane Roar
5	Mark MILLIGAN	(28) 04.08.85	Melbourne Victory
11	Tommy OAR	(22) 10.12.91	Utrecht (Hol)
14	James TROISI	(25) 03.07.88	Atalanta (Ita)
20	Dario VIDOSIC	(27) 08.04.87	Sion (Swi)

FORWARDS

4	Tim CAHILL	(34) 06.12.79	New York Red Bulls (USA)
7	Mathew LECKIE	(23) 04.02.91	FSV Frankfurt (Ger)
9	Adam TAGGART	(21) 02.06.93	Newcastle Jets

COACH

Ange POSTECOGLOU	(48) 27.08.65	

BELGIUM

GOALKEEPERS

13	Sammy BOSSUT	(28) 11.08.85	Zulte Waregem
1	Thibaut COURTOIS	(22) 11.05.92	Chelsea (Eng)
12	Simon MIGNOLET	(25) 06.08.88	Liverpool (Eng)

DEFENDERS

2	Toby ALDERWEIRELD	(25) 02.03.89	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
23	Laurent CIMAN	(28) 05.08.85	Standard Liege
4	Vincent KOMPANY	(28) 10.04.86	Manchester City (Eng)
18	Nicolas LOMBAERTS	(29) 20.03.85	Zenit (Rus)
15	Daniel VAN BUYTEN	(36) 07.02.78	Bayern Munich (Ger)
21	Anthony VANDEN BORRE	(26) 24.10.87	Anderlecht
3	Thomas VERMAELEN	(28) 14.11.85	Arsenal (Eng)
5	Jan VERTONGHEN	(27) 24.04.87	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

22	Nacer CHADLI	(24) 02.10.89	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
7	Kevin DE BRUYNE	(22) 28.06.91	Wolfsburg (Ger)
16	Steven DEFOUR	(26) 15.04.88	Porto (Por)
19	Mousa DEMBELE	(26) 16.07.87	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
8	Marouane FELLAINI	(26) 22.11.87	Manchester United (Eng)
10	Eden HAZARD	(23) 07.01.91	Chelsea (Eng)
20	Adnan JANUZAJ	(19) 05.02.95	Manchester United (Eng)
11	Kevin MIRALLAS	(26) 05.10.87	Everton (Eng)
6	Axel WITSEL	(25) 12.01.89	Zenit (Rus)

FORWARDS

9	Romelu LUKAKU	(21) 13.05.93	Everton (Eng)
14	Dries MERTENS	(27) 06.05.87	Napoli (Ita)
17	Divock ORIGI	(19) 18.04.95	Lille (Fra)

COACH

Marc WILMOTS	(45) 22.02.69	

COLOMBIA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Faryd MONDRAGON	(42) 21.06.71	Deportivo Cali
1	David OSPINA	(25) 31.08.88	Nice (Fra)
12	Camilo VARGAS	(25) 09.03.89	Santa Fe

DEFENDERS

4	Santiago ARIAS	(22) 13.012.92	PSV (Hol)
7	Pablo ARMERO	(27) 02.11.86	Napoli (Ita)
16	Eder BALANTA	(21) 28.02.93	River Plate (Arg)
23	Carlos VALDES	(29) 22.05.85	San Lorenzo (Arg)
3	Mario YEPES	(38) 13.01.76	Atalanta (Ita)
2	Cristian ZAPATA	(27) 30.09.86	Milan (Ita)
18	Juan ZUNIGA	(28) 14.12.85	Napoli (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

8	Abel AGUILAR	(29) 06.01.85	Toulouse (Fra)
5	Carlos CARBONERO	(23) 25.07.90	River Plate (Arg)
11	Juan CUADRADO	(26) 26.05.88	Fiorentina (Ita)
13	Fredy GUARIN	(27) 30.06.86	Internazionale (Ita)
15	Alex MEJIA	(25) 11.07.88	Atletico Nacional
20	Juan QUINTERO	(21) 18.01.93	Porto (Por)
10	James RODRIGUEZ	(22) 12.07.91	Monaco (Fra)
6	Carlos SANCHEZ	(28) 06.02.86	Elche (Spa)

FORWARDS

17	Carlos BACCA	(27) 08.09.86	Sevilla (Spa)
9	Teofilo GUTIERREZ	(29) 17.05.85	River Plate (Arg)
14	Victor IBARBO	(24) 19.05.90	Cagliari (Ita)
21	Jackson MARTINEZ	(27) 03.10.86	Porto (Por)
19	Adrian RAMOS	(28) 22.01.86	Hertha Berlin (Ger)

COACH

Jose Pekerman (Arg)	(64) 03.09.49	

COSTA RICA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Daniel CAMBRONERO	(28) 08.01.86	Herediano
1	Keylor NAVAS	(27) 15.12.86	Levante (Spa)
18	Patrick PEMBERTON	(32) 24.04.82	Alajuelense

DEFENDERS

2	Johnny ACOSTA	(30) 21.07.83	Alajuelense
15	Junior DIAZ	(30) 12.09.83	Mainz (Ger)
6	Oscar DUARTE	(25) 03.06.89	Club Brugge (Blg)
12	Waylon FRANCIS	(23) 20.09.90	Columbus Crew (USA)
16	Cristian GAMBOA	(24) 24.10.89	Rosenborg (Nor)
3	Giancarlo GONZALEZ	(26) 08.02.88	Columbus Crew (USA)
19	Roy MILLER	(29) 24.11.84	New York Red Bulls (USA)
8	David MYRIE	(26) 01.06.88	Herediano
4	Michael UMANA	(31) 16.07.82	Saprissa

MIDFIELDERS

11	Michael BARRANTES	(30) 04.10.83	Aalesund (Nor)
7	Christian BOLANOS	(30) 17.05.84	Copenhagen (Den)
5	Celso BORGES	(26) 27.05.88	AIK (Swe)
20	Diego CALVO	(23) 25.03.91	Valerenga (Nor)
22	Jose Miguel CUBERO	(27) 14.02.87	Herediano
13	Esteban GRANADOS	(28) 25.10.85	Herediano
17	Yeltsin TEJEDA	(22) 17.03.92	Saprissa

FORWARDS

14	Randall BRENES	(30) 13.08.83	Cartagines
9	Joel CAMPBELL	(21) 26.06.92	Arsenal (Eng)
10	Bryan RUIZ	(28) 18.08.85	Fulham (Eng)
21	Marco URENA	(24) 05.03.90	Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)

COACH

Jorge Luis PINTO (Col)	(61) 16.12.52	

CROATIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Stipe PLETIKOSA	(35) 08.01.79	Rostov (Rus)
23	Danijel SUBASIC	(29) 27.10.84	Monaco (Fra)
12	Oliver ZELENIKA	(21) 14.05.93	Dinamo Zagreb

DEFENDERS

5	Vedran CORLUKA	(28) 05.02.86	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
6	Dejan LOVREN	(25) 05.07.89	Southampton (Eng)
3	Danijel PRANJIC	(32) 02.12.81	Panathinaikos (Gre)
13	Gordon SCHILDENFELD	(29) 18.03.85	Panathinaikos (Gre)
11	Darijo SRNA	(32) 01.05.82	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
21	Domagoj VIDA	(25) 29.04.89	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
2	Sime VRSALJKO	(22) 10.01.92	Genoa (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

15	Milan BADELJ	(25) 25.02.89	Hamburg (Ger)
14	Marcelo BROZOVIC	(21) 16.11.92	Dinamo Zagreb
20	Mateo KOVACIC	(20) 06.05.94	Internazionale (Ita)
10	Luka MODRIC	(28) 09.09.85	Real Madrid (Spa)
4	Ivan PERISIC	(25) 02.02.89	Wolfsburg (Ger)
7	Ivan RAKITIC	(26) 10.03.88	Sevilla (Spa)
19	SAMMIR	(27) 23.04.87	Getafe (Spa)
8	Ognjen VUKOJEVIC	(30) 20.12.83	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)

FORWARDS

22	EDUARDO	(31) 25.02.83	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
9	Nikica JELAVIC	(28) 27.08.85	Hull City (Eng)
17	Mario MANDZUKIC	(28) 21.05.86	Bayern Munich (Ger)
18	Ivica OLIC	(34) 14.09.79	Wolfsburg (Ger)
16	Ante REBIC	(20) 21.09.93	Fiorentina (Ita)

COACH

Niko KOVAC	(42) 15.10.71	

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS

1	Maximo BANGUERA	(28) 16.12.85	Barcelona
12	Adrian BONE	(25) 08.09.88	El Nacional
22	Alexander DOMINGUEZ	(27) 05.06.87	LDU Quito

DEFENDERS

21	Gabriel ACHILIER	(29) 24.03.85	Emelec
10	Walter AYOVI	(34) 11.08.79	Pachuca (Mex)
18	Oscar BAGUI	(31) 10.12.82	Emelec
3	Frickson ERAZO	(26) 05.05.88	Flamengo (Bra)
2	Jorge GUAGUA	(32) 28.09.81	Emelec
4	Juan Carlos PAREDES	(26) 08.07.87	Barcelona

MIDFIELDERS

15	Michael ARROYO	(27) 23.04.87	Atlante (Mex)
23	Carlos GRUEZO	(19) 19.04.95	Stuttgart (Ger)
5	Renato IBARRA	(23) 20.01.91	Vitesse (Hol)
20	Fidel MARTINEZ	(24) 15.02.90	Tijuana (Mex)
8	Edison MENDEZ	(35) 15.03.79	Santa Fe
14	Oswaldo MINDA	(30) 26.07.83	Chivas USA (USA)
7	Jefferson MONTERO	(24) 01.09.89	Morelia (Mex)
6	Christian NOBOA	(29) 09.04.85	Dynamo Moscow (Rus)
9	Joao ROJAS	(24) 14.06.89	Cruz Azul (Mex)
19	Luis SARITAMA	(30) 20.10.83	Barcelona
16	Antonio VALENCIA	(28) 04.08.85	Manchester United (Eng)

FORWARDS

17	Jaime AYOVI	(26) 21.02.88	Tijuana (Mex)
11	Felipe CAICEDO	(25) 05.09.88	Al Jazira (UAE)
13	Enner VALENCIA	(25) 11.04.89	Pachuca (Mex)

COACH

Reinaldo RUEDA (Col)	(57) 16.04.57	

(ages as of 12.06.14)

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Asmir AVDUKIC	(33) 13.05.81	Borac Banja Luka
1	Asmir BEGOVIC	(26) 20.06.87	Stoke City (Eng)
12	Jasmin FEJZIC	(28) 15.05.86	Aalen (Ger)

DEFENDERS

7	Muhamed BESIC	(21) 10.09.92	Ferencvaros (Hun)
3	Ermin BICAKCIC	(24) 24.01.90	Eintracht Braunschweig (Ger)
5	Sead KOLASINAC	(20) 20.06.93	Schalke (Ger)
13	Mensur MUJDZA	(30) 28.03.84	Freiburg (Ger)
4	Emir SPAHIC	(33) 18.08.80	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
15	Toni SUNJIC	(25) 15.12.88	Zorya Luhansk (Ukr)
6	Ognjen VRANJES	(24) 24.10.89	Elazigspor (Tur)
2	Avdija VRSAJEVIC	(28) 06.03.86	Hajduk Split (Cro)

MIDFIELDERS

21	Anel HADZIC	(24) 16.08.89	Sturm Graz (Aut)
20	Izet HAJROVIC	(22) 04.08.91	Galatasaray (Tur)
17	Senijad IBRICIC	(28) 26.09.85	Kayseri Erciyesspor (Tur)
16	Senad LULIC	(28) 18.01.86	Lazio (Ita)
18	Haris MEDUNJANIN	(29) 08.03.85	Gaziantepspor (Tur)
10	Zvjezdan MISIMOVIC	(32) 05.06.82	Guizhou Renhe (Chn)
8	Miralem PJANIC	(24) 02.04.90	Roma (Ita)
23	Sejad SALIHOVIC	(29) 08.10.84	Hoffenheim (Ger)
14	Tino-Sven SUSIC	(22) 13.02.92	Hajduk Split (Cro)

FORWARDS

11	Edin DZEKO	(28) 17.03.86	Manchester City (Eng)
9	Vedad IBISEVIC	(29) 06.08.84	Stuttgart (Ger)
19	Edin VISCA	(24) 17.02.90	Istanbul BB (Tur)

COACH

Safet SUSIC	(59) 13.04.55	

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS

12	Julio CESAR	(34) 03.09.79	Queens Park Rangers (Eng)
1	JEFFERSON	(31) 02.01.83	Botafogo
22	VICTOR	(31) 21.01.83	Atletico Mineiro

DEFENDERS

2	Dani ALVES	(31) 06.05.83	Barcelona (Spa)
13	DANTE	(30) 18.10.83	Bayern Munich (Ger)
15	HENRIQUE	(27) 14.10.86	Napoli (Ita)
4	David LUIZ	(27) 22.04.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
23	MAICON	(32) 26.07.81	Roma (Ita)
6	MARCELO	(26) 12.05.88	Real Madrid (Spa)
14	MAXWELL	(32) 27.08.81	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
3	Thiago SILVA	(29) 22.09.84	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

MIDFIELDERS

5	FERNANDINHO	(29) 04.05.85	Manchester City (Eng)
17	Luiz GUSTAVO	(26) 23.07.87	Wolfsburg (Ger)
18	HERNANES	(29) 29.05.85	Internazionale (Ita)
11	OSCAR	(22) 09.09.91	Chelsea (Eng)
8	PAULINHO	(25) 25.07.88	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
16	RAMIRES	(27) 24.03.87	Chelsea (Eng)
19	WILLIAN	(25) 09.08.88	Chelsea (Eng)

FORWARDS

20	BERNARD	(21) 08.09.92	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
9	FRED	(30) 03.10.83	Fluminense
7	HULK	(27) 25.07.86	Zenit (Rus)
21	JO	(27) 20.03.87	Atletico Mineiro
10	NEYMAR	(22) 05.02.92	Barcelona (Spa)

COACH

Luiz Felipe SCOLARI	(65) 09.11.48	

CAMEROON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Loic FEUDJOU	(22) 14.04.92	Coton Sport
16	Charles ITANDJE	(31) 02.11.82	Konyaspor (Tur)
23	Sammy N'DJOCK	(24) 25.02.90	Fethiyespor (Tur)

DEFENDERS

2	Benoit ASSOU-EKOTTO	(30) 24.03.84	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
12	Henri BEDIMO	(30) 04.06.84	Lyon (Fra)
14	Aurelien CHEDJOU	(28) 20.06.85	Galatasaray (Tur)
4	Cedric DJEUGOUE	(21) 28.08.92	Coton Sport
3	Nicolas N'KOULOU	(24) 27.03.90	Marseille (Fra)
5	Dany NOUNKEU	(28) 11.04.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
22	Allan NYOM	(26) 10.05.88	Udinese (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

18	Eyong ENOH	(28) 23.03.86	Antalyaspor (Tur)
11	Jean MAKOUN	(31) 29.05.83	Rennes (Fra)
21	Joel MATIP	(22) 08.08.91	Schalke (Ger)
17	Stephane MBIA	(28) 20.05.86	QPR (Eng)
7	Landry N'GUEMO	(28) 28.11.85	Bordeaux (Fra)
20	Edgar SALLI	(21) 17.08.92	Monaco (Fra)
6	Alex SONG	(26) 09.09.87	Barcelona (Spa)

FORWARDS

10	Vincent ABOUBAKAR	(22) 22.01.92	Lorient (Fra)
13	Eric CHOUPO-MOTING	(25) 23.03.89	Mainz (Ger)
9	Samuel ETO'O	(33) 10.03.81	Chelsea (Eng)
8	Benjamin MOUKANDJO	(25) 12.11.88	Nancy (Fra)
19	Fabrice OLINGA	(18) 12.05.96	Malaga (Spa)
15	Pierre WEBO	(32) 20.01.82	Fenerbahce (Tur)

COACH

Volker FINKE (Ger)	(65) 24.03.48	

CHILE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Claudio BRAVO	(31) 13.04.83	Real Sociedad (Spa)
23	Johnny HERRERA	(33) 09.05.81	Universidad de Chile
12	Cristopher TOSELLI	(25) 22.06.88	Universidad Catolica

DEFENDERS

3	Miiko ALBORNOZ	(23) 03.11.90	Malmo (Swe)
18	Gonzalo JARA	(28) 29.08.85	Nottingham Forest (Eng)
17	Gary MEDEL	(26) 03.08.87	Cardiff City (Eng)
2	Eugenio MENA	(25) 18.07.88	Santos (Bra)
13	Jose ROJAS	(31) 23.06.83	Universidad de Chile

MIDFIELDERS

20	Charles ARANGUIZ	(25) 17.04.89	Internacional (Bra)
15	Jean BEAUSEJOUR	(30) 01.06.84	Wigan Athletic (Eng)
6	Carlos CARMONA	(27) 21.02.87	Atalanta (Ita)
21	Marcelo DIAZ	(27) 30.12.86	Basle (Swi)
19	Jose Pedro FUENZALIDA	(29) 22.02.85	Colo Colo
16	Felipe GUTIERREZ	(23) 08.10.90	Twente (Hol)
4	Mauricio ISLA	(26) 12.06.88	Juventus (Ita)
14	Fabian ORELLANA	(28) 27.01.86	Celta Vigo (Spa)
5	Francisco SILVA	(28) 11.02.86	Osasuna (Spa)
10	Jorge VALDIVIA	(30) 19.10.83	Palmeiras (Bra)
8	Arturo VIDAL	(27) 22.05.87	Juventus (Ita)

FORWARDS

22	Esteban PAREDES	(33) 01.08.80	Colo Colo
9	Mauricio PINILLA	(30) 04.02.84	Cagliari (Ita)
7	Alexis SANCHEZ	(25) 19.12.88	Barcelona (Spa)
11	Eduardo VARGAS	(24) 20.11.89	Napoli (Ita)

COACH

Jorge SAMPAOLI (Arg)	(54) 13.03.60	

ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS

22	Fraser FORSTER	(26) 17.03.88	Celtic (Sco)
13	Ben FOSTER	(31) 03.05.83	West Bromwich Albion
1	Joe HART	(27) 19.05.87	Manchester City

DEFENDERS

3	Leighton BAINES	(29) 11.12.84	Everton
5	Gary CAHILL	(28) 19.12.85	Chelsea
6	Phil JAGIELKA	(31) 17.08.82	Everton
2	Glen JOHNSON	(29) 23.08.84	Liverpool
16	Phil JONES	(22) 21.02.92	Manchester United
23	Luke SHAW	(18) 12.07.95	Southampton
12	Chris SMALLING	(24) 22.11.89	Manchester United

MIDFIELDERS

21	Ross BARKLEY	(20) 05.12.93	Everton
4	Steven GERRARD	(34) 30.05.80	Liverpool
14	Jordan HENDERSON	(23) 17.06.90	Liverpool
20	Adam LALLANA	(26) 10.05.88	Southampton
8	Frank LAMPARD	(35) 20.06.78	Chelsea
17	James MILNER	(28) 04.01.86	Manchester City
15	Alex OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN	(20) 15.08.93	Arsenal
19	Raheem STERLING	(19) 08.12.94	Liverpool
7	Jack WILSHERE	(22) 01.01.92	Arsenal

FORWARDS

18	Rickie LAMBERT	(32) 16.02.82	Liverpool
10	Wayne ROONEY	(28) 24.10.85	Manchester United
9	Daniel STURRIDGE	(24) 01.09.89	Liverpool
11	Danny WELBECK	(23) 26.11.90	Manchester United

COACH

Roy HODGSON	(66) 09.08.47	

FRANCE

GOALKEEPERS

23	Mickael LANDREAU	(35) 14.05.79	Bastia
1	Hugo LLORIS	(27) 26.12.86	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
16	Stephane RUFFIER	(27) 27.09.86	Saint-Etienne

DEFENDERS

2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	(28) 28.07.85	Newcastle United (Eng)
17	Lucas DIGNE	(20) 20.07.93	Paris Saint-Germain
3	Patrice EVRA	(33) 15.05.81	Manchester United (Eng)
21	Laurent KOSCIELNY	(28) 10.09.85	Arsenal (Eng)
13	Eliaquim MANGALA	(23) 13.02.91	Porto (Por)
15	Bacary SAGNA	(31) 14.02.83	Arsenal (Eng)
5	Mamadou SAKHO	(24) 13.02.90	Liverpool (Eng)
4	Raphael VARANE	(21) 25.04.93	Real Madrid (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

6	Yohan CABAYE	(28) 14.01.86	Paris Saint-Germain
7	Remy CABELLA	(24) 08.03.90	Montpellier
11	Antoine GRIEZMANN	(23) 21.03.91	Real Sociedad (Spa)
14	Blaise MATUIDI	(27) 09.04.87	Paris Saint-Germain
12	Rio MAVUBA	(30) 08.03.84	Lille
19	Paul POGBA	(21) 15.03.93	Juventus (Ita)
22	Morgan SCHNEIDERLIN	(24) 08.11.89	Southampton (Eng)
18	Moussa SISSOKO	(24) 16.08.89	Newcastle United (Eng)
8	Mathieu VALBUENA	(29) 28.09.84	Marseille

FORWARDS

10	Karim BENZEMA	(26) 19.12.87	Real Madrid (Spa)
9	Olivier GIROUD	(27) 30.09.86	Arsenal (Eng)
20	Loic REMY	(27) 02.01.87	QPR (Eng)

COACH

Didier DESCHAMPS	(45) 15.10.68	

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Manuel NEUER	(28) 27.03.86	Bayern Munich
22	Roman WEIDENFELLER	(33) 06.08.80	Borussia Dortmund
12	Ron-Robert ZIELER	(25) 12.02.89	Hanover

DEFENDERS

20	Jerome BOATENG	(25) 03.09.88	Bayern Munich
15	Erik DURM	(22) 12.05.92	Borussia Dortmund
3	Matthias GINTER	(20) 19.01.94	Freiburg
2	Kevin GROSSKREUTZ	(25) 19.07.88	Borussia Dortmund
4	Benedikt HOWEDES	(26) 29.02.88	Schalke
5	Mats HUMMELS	(25) 16.12.88	Borussia Dortmund
16	Philipp LAHM	(30) 11.11.83	Bayern Munich
17	Per MERTESACKER	(29) 29.09.84	Arsenal (Eng)
21	Shkodran MUSTAFI	(22) 17.04.92	Sampdoria (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

14	Julian DRAXLER	(20) 20.09.93	Schalke
19	Mario GOTZE	(22) 03.06.92	Bayern Munich
6	Sami KHEDIRA	(27) 04.04.87	Real Madrid (Spa)
23	Christoph KRAMER	(23) 12.02.91	Borussia Monchengladbach
18	Toni KROOS	(24) 04.01.90	Bayern Munich
13	Thomas MULLER	(24) 13.09.89	Bayern Munich
8	Mesut OZIL	(25) 15.10.88	Arsenal (Eng)
9	Andre SCHURRLE	(23) 06.11.90	Chelsea (Eng)
7	Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	(29) 01.08.84	Bayern Munich

FORWARDS

11	Miroslav KLOSE	(36) 09.06.78	Lazio (Ita)
10	Lukas PODOLSKI	(29) 04.06.85	Arsenal (Eng)

COACH

Joachim LOW	(54) 03.02.60	

GHANA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Stephen ADAMS	(24) 28.09.89	Aduana Stars
16	Fatau DAUDA	(29) 06.04.85	Orlando Pirates (SAf)
12	Adam KWARASEY	(26) 12.12.87	Stromsgodset (Nor)

DEFENDERS

23	Harrison AFFUL	(27) 24.06.86	Esperance (Tun)
21	John BOYE	(27) 23.04.87	Rennes (Fra)
2	Samuel INKOOM	(25) 01.06.89	Platanias (Gre)
19	Jonathan MENSAH	(23) 13.07.90	Evian (Fra)
4	Daniel OPARE	(23) 18.10.90	Standard Liege (Blg)
15	Rashid SUMAILA	(21) 18.12.92	Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf)

MIDFIELDERS

6	Afriyie ACQUAH	(22) 05.01.92	Hoffenheim (Ger)
14	Albert ADOMAH	(26) 13.12.87	Middlesbrough (Eng)
8	Emmanuel AGYEMANG-BADU	(23) 02.12.90	Udinese (Ita)
20	Kwadwo ASAMOAH	(25) 09.12.88	Juventus (Ita)
7	Christian ATSU	(22) 10.01.92	Chelsea (Eng)
10	Andre AYEW	(24) 17.12.89	Marseille (Fra)
5	Michael ESSIEN	(31) 03.12.82	Milan (Ita)
11	Sulley MUNTARI	(29) 27.08.84	Milan (Ita)
17	Mohammed RABIU	(24) 31.12.89	Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)
22	WAKASO Mubarak	(23) 25.07.90	Rubin Kazan (Rus)

FORWARDS

13	Jordan AYEW	(22) 11.09.91	Marseille (Fra)
9	Kevin-Prince BOATENG	(27) 06.03.87	Schalke (Ger)
3	Asamoah GYAN	(28) 22.11.85	Al Ain (UAE)
18	Majeed WARIS	(22) 19.09.91	Spartak Moscow (Rus)

COACH

James Kwesi APPIAH	(53) 30.06.60	

GREECE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Orestis KARNEZIS	(28) 11.07.85	Udinese (Ita)
12	Panagiotis GLYKOS	(28) 03.06.86	PAOK
13	Stefanos KAPINO	(20) 18.03.94	Panathinaikos

DEFENDERS

20	Jose HOLEBAS	(29) 27.06.84	Olympiakos
4	Kostas MANOLAS	(22) 14.06.91	Olympiakos
5	Vangelis MORAS	(32) 26.08.81	Verona (Ita)
19	Sokratis PAPASTATHOPOULOS	(26) 09.06.88	Bor Dortmund (Ger)
15	Vasilis TOROSIDIS	(29) 10.06.85	Roma (Ita)
3	Giorgos TZAVELLAS	(26) 26.11.87	PAOK
11	Loukas VYNTRA	(33) 05.02.81	Levante (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

16	Lazaros CHRISTODOULOPOULOS	(27) 19.12.86	Bologna (Ita)
18	Giannis FETFATZIDIS	(23) 21.12.90	Genoa (Ita)
10	Giorgos KARAGOUNIS	(37) 06.03.77	Fulham (Eng)
21	Kostas KATSOURANIS	(34) 21.06.79	PAOK
8	Panagiotis KONE	(26) 26.07.87	Bologna (Ita)
2	Giannis MANIATIS	(27) 12.10.86	Olympiakos
22	Andreas SAMARIS	(24) 13.06.89	Olympiakos
23	Panagiotis TACHTSIDIS	(23) 15.02.91	Torino (Ita)
6	Alexandros TZIOLIS	(29) 13.02.85	PAOK

FORWARDS

17	Theofanis GEKAS	(34) 23.05.80	Konyaspor (Tur)
9	Kostas MITROGLOU	(26) 12.03.88	Fulham (Eng)
14	Dimitris SALPINGIDIS	(32) 18.08.81	PAOK
7	Giorgos SAMARAS	(29) 21.02.85	Celtic (Sco)

COACH

Fernando SANTOS (Por)	(59) 10.10.54	

HOLLAND

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jasper CILLESSEN	(25) 22.04.89	Ajax
23	Tim KRUL	(26) 03.04.88	Newcastle United (Eng)
22	Michel VORM	(30) 20.10.83	Swansea City (Eng)

DEFENDERS

5	Daley BLIND	(24) 09.03.90	Ajax
3	Stefan DE VRIJ	(22) 05.02.92	Feyenoord
7	Daryl JANMAAT	(24) 22.07.89	Feyenoord
14	Terence KONGOLO	(20) 14.02.94	Feyenoord
4	Bruno MARTINS INDI	(22) 08.02.92	Feyenoord
13	Joel VELTMAN	(22) 15.01.92	Ajax
12	Paul VERHAEGH	(30) 01.09.83	Augsburg (Ger)
2	Ron VLAAR	(29) 16.02.85	Aston Villa (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

16	Jordy CLASIE	(22) 27.06.91	Feyenoord
8	Jonathan DE GUZMAN	(26) 13.09.87	Villarreal (Spa)
6	Nigel DE JONG	(29) 13.11.84	Milan (Ita)
21	Memphis DEPAY	(20) 13.02.94	PSV
18	Leroy FER	(24) 05.01.90	Norwich City (Eng)
10	Wesley SNEIJDER	(30) 09.06.84	Galatasaray (Tur)
20	Georginio WUNALDUM	(23) 11.11.90	PSV

FORWARDS

19	Klaas-Jan HUNTELAAR	(30) 12.08.83	Schalke (Ger)
15	Dirk KUYT	(33) 22.07.80	Fenerbahce (Tur)
17	Jeremain LENS	(26) 24.11.87	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
11	Arjen ROBBEN	(30) 23.01.84	Bayern Munich (Ger)
9	Robin VAN PERSIE	(30) 06.08.83	Manchester United (Eng)

COACH

Louis VAN GAAL	(62) 08.08.51	

HONDURAS

GOALKEEPERS

22	Donis ESCOBER	(34) 03.02.80	Olimpia
1	Luis LOPEZ	(20) 13.09.93	Real Espana
18	Noel VALLADARES	(37) 03.05.77	Olimpia

DEFENDERS

21	Brayan BECKELES	(28) 28.11.85	Olimpia
5	Victor BERNARDEZ	(32) 24.05.82	San Jose Earthquakes (USA)
2	Osman CHAVEZ	(29) 29.07.84	Wisla Krakow (Pol)
3	Maynor FIGUEROA	(31) 02.05.83	Hull City (Eng)
6	Juan Carlos GARCIA	(26) 08.03.88	Wigan Athletic (Eng)
7	Emilio IZAGUIRRE	(28) 10.05.86	Celtic (Sco)
4	Juan Pablo MONTES	(28) 26.10.85	Motagua

MIDFIELDERS

23	Marvin CHAVEZ	(30) 03.11.83	Chivas USA (USA)
20	Jorge CLAROS	(28) 08.01.86	Motagua
12	Edder DELGADO	(27) 20.11.86	Real Espana
15	Roger ESPINOZA	(27) 25.10.86	Wigan Athletic (Eng)
14	Oscar Boniek GARCIA	(29) 04.09.84	Houston Dynamo (USA)
19	Luis GARRIDO	(23) 05.11.90	Olimpia
10	Mario MARTINEZ	(24) 30.07.89	Real Espana
17	Andy NAJAR	(21) 16.03.93	Anderlecht (Blg)
8	Wilson PALACIOS	(29) 29.07.84	Stoke City (Eng)

FORWARDS

11	Jerry BENGTSON	(27) 08.04.87	New England Revolution (USA)
13	Carlo COSTLY	(31) 18.07.82	Real Espana
16	Rony MARTINEZ	(25) 16.10.88	Real Sociedad
9	Jerry PALACIOS	(32) 01.11.81	Alajuelense

COACH

Luis Fernando SUAREZ (Col)	(54) 23.12.59	

IRAN

GOALKEEPERS

1	Rahman AHMADI	(33) 30.07.80	Sepahan
22	Daniel DAVARI	(26) 06.01.88	Eintracht Braunschweig (Ger)
12	Alireza HAGHIGHI	(26) 02.05.88	Rubin Kazan (Rus)

DEFENDERS

17	Ahmad ALENEMEH	(31) 10.10.82	Naft Tehran
19	Hashem BEIKZADEH	(30) 22.01.84	Esteghlal
20	Steven BEITASHOUR	(27) 01.02.87	Vancouver Whitecaps (SA)
4	Jalal HOSSEINI	(32) 03.02.82	Persepolis
13	Hossein MAHINI	(27) 16.09.86	Persepolis
15	Pejman MONTAZERI	(30) 06.09.83	Umm Salal (Qat)
23	Mehrdad POOLADI	(27) 26.02.87	Persepolis
5	Amir Hossein SADEGHI	(32) 06.09.81	Esteghlal

MIDFIELDERS

21	Ashkan DEJAGAH	(27) 05.07.86	Fulham (Eng)
11	Ghasem HADDADIFAR	(30) 12.07.83	Zob Ahan
8	Reza HAGHIGHI	(25) 01.02.89	Persepolis
3	Ehsan HAJSAFY	(24) 25.02.90	Sepahan
2	Khosro HEYDARI	(30) 14.09.83	Esteghlal
6	Javad NEKOUNAM	(33) 07.10.80	Al Kuwait (Kuw)
18	Bakhtiar RAHMANI	(22) 23.09.91	Foolad
7	Masoud SHOJAEI	(30) 09.06.84	Las Palmas (Spa)
14	Andranik TEYMOURIAN	(31) 06.03.83	Esteghlal

FORWARDS

10	Karim ANSARIFARD	(24) 03.04.90	Tractor Sazi
16	Reza GHOOCHANNEJHAD	(26) 20.09.87	Charlton Athletic (Eng)
9	Alireza JAHANBAKHSH	(20) 11.08.93	NEC (Hol)

COACH

Carlos QUEIROZ (Por)	(61) 01.03.53	

NIGERIA

GOALKEEPERS

21	Chigozie AGBIM	(29) 28.11.84	Gombe United
16	Austin EJIDE	(30) 08.04.84	Hapoel Be'er Sheva (Isr)
1	Vincent ENYEAMA	(31) 29.08.82	Lille (Fra)

DEFENDERS

5	Efe AMBROSE	(25) 18.10.88	Celtic (Sco)
6	Azubuike EGWUEKWE	(24) 16.07.89	Warri Wolves
14	Godfrey OBOABONA	(23) 16.08.90	Caykur Rizespor (Tur)
12	Kunle ODUNLAMI	(24) 05.03.90	Sunshine Stars
22	Kenneth OMERUO	(20) 17.10.93	Chelsea (Eng)
13	Juwon OSHANIWA	(23) 14.09.90	Ashdod (Isr)
2	Joseph YOBO	(33) 06.09.80	Fenerbahce (Tur)

MIDFIELDERS

15	Ramon AZEEZ	(21) 12.12.92	Almeria (Spa)
18	Michael BABATUNDE	(21) 24.12.92	Volyn Lutsk (Ukr)
4	Reuben GABRIEL	(23) 25.09.90	Waasland-Beveren (Blg)
10	John Obi MIKEL	(27) 22.04.87	Chelsea (Eng)
11	Victor MOSES	(23) 12.12.90	Chelsea (Eng)
17	Ogenyi ONAZI	(21) 25.12.92	Lazio (Ita)
3	Ejike UZOENYI	(26) 23.03.88	Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf)

FORWARDS

23	Shola AMEOBI	(32) 12.10.81	Newcastle United (Eng)
9	Emmanuel EMENIKE	(27) 10.05.87	Fenerbahce (Tur)
7	Ahmed MUSA	(21) 14.10.92	CSKA Moscow (Rus)
19	Uche NWOFOR	(22) 17.09.91	VVV Venlo (Hol)
8	Peter ODEMWINGIE	(32) 15.07.81	Stoke City (Eng)
20	Michael UCHEBO	(24) 02.02.90	Cercle Brugge (Blg)

COACH

Stephen KESHI	(52) 23.01.62	

PORTUGAL

GOALKEEPERS

22	BETO	(32) 01.05.82	Sevilla (Spa)
1	EDUARDO	(31) 19.09.82	Braga
12	Rui PATRICIO	(26) 15.02.88	Sporting Lisbon

DEFENDERS

19	Andre ALMEIDA	(23) 10.09.90	Benfica
2	Bruno ALVES	(32) 27.11.81	Fenerbahce (Tur)
5	Fabio COENTRAO	(26) 11.03.88	Real Madrid (Spa)
13	Ricardo COSTA	(33) 16.05.81	Valencia (Spa)
14	Luis NETO	(26) 26.05.88	Zenit (Rus)
3	PEPE	(31) 26.02.83	Real Madrid (Spa)
21	Joao PEREIRA	(30) 25.02.84	Valencia (Spa)

MIDFIELDERS

20	Ruben AMORIM	(29) 27.01.85	Benfica
6	William CARVALHO	(22) 07.04.92	Sporting Lisbon
16	Raul MEIRELES	(31) 17.03.83	Fenerbahce (Tur)
8	Joao MOUTINHO	(27) 08.09.86	Monaco (Fra)
17	NANI	(27) 17.11.86	Manchester United (Eng)
15	RAFA Silva	(21) 17.05.93	Braga
18	Silvestre VARELA	(29) 02.02.85	Porto
4	Miguel VELOSO	(28) 11.05.86	Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
10	VIEIRINHA	(28) 24.01.86	Wolfsburg (Ger)

FORWARDS

9	Hugo ALMEIDA	(30) 23.05.84	Besiktas (Tur)
11	EDER	(26) 22.12.87	Braga
23	Helder POSTIGA	(31) 02.08.82	Lazio (Ita)
7	Cristiano RONALDO	(29) 05.02.85	Real Madrid (Spa)

COACH

Paulo BENTO	(44) 20.06.69	

RUSSIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Igor AKINFEEV	(28) 08.04.86	CSKA Moscow
12	Yuri LODYGIN	(24) 26.05.90	Zenit
16	Sergey RYZHIKOV	(33) 19.09.80	Rubin Kazan

DEFENDERS

14	Vasili BEREZUTSKI	(31) 20.06.82	CSKA Moscow
13	Vladimir GRANAT	(27) 22.05.97	Dynamo Moscow
4	Sergei IGNASHEVICH	(34) 14.07.79	CSKA Moscow
23	Dmitri KOMBAROV	(27) 22.01.87	Spartak Moscow
2	Aleksei KOZLOV	(27) 16.11.86	Dynamo Moscow
5	Andrei SEMYONOV	(25) 24.03.89	Terek Grozny
3	Georgi SHCHENNIKOV	(23) 27.04.91	CSKA Moscow
22	Andrey YESHCHENKO	(30) 09.02.84	Anzhi

MIDFIELDERS

7	Igor DENISOV	(30) 17.05.84	Dynamo Moscow
10	Alan DZAGOEV	(23) 17.06.90	CSKA Moscow
20	Viktor FAYZULIN	(28) 22.04.86	Zenit
8	Denis GLUSHAKOV	(27) 27.01.87	Spartak Moscow
15	Pavel MOGILEVETS	(21) 25.01.93	Zenit
17	Oleg SHATOV	(23) 29.07.90	Zenit

FORWARDS

21	Aleksei IONOV	(25) 18.02.89	Dynamo Moscow
6	Maksim KANUNNIKOV	(22) 14.07.91	Rubin Kazan
11	Aleksandr KERZHAKOV	(31) 27.11.82	Zenit
9	Aleksandr KOKORIN	(23) 19.03.91	Dynamo Moscow
19	Aleksandr SAMEDOV	(29) 19.07.84	Lokomotiv Moscow
18	Yuri ZHIRKOV	(30) 20.08.83	Dynamo Moscow

COACH

Fabio CAPELLO (Ita)	(68) 18.06.46	

SOUTH KOREA

GOALKEEPERS

1	JUNG Sung-ryung	(29) 04.01.85	Suwon Bluewings
21	KIM Seung-gyu	(23) 30.09.90	Ulsan Hyundai
23	LEE Bum-young	(25) 02.04.89	Busan IPark

DEFENDERS

20	HONG Jeong-ho	(24) 12.08.89	Augsburg (Ger)
6	HWANG Seok-ho	(24) 27.06.89	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap)
2	KIM Chang-soo	(28) 12.09.85	Kashiwa Reysol (Jap)
5	KIM Young-gwon	(24) 27.02.90	Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn)
4	KWAK Tae-hwi	(32) 08.07.81	Al Hilal (Sau)
12	LEE Yong	(27) 24.12.86	Ulsan Hyundai
22	PARK Joo-ho	(27) 16.01.87	Mainz (Ger)
3	YUN Suk-young	(24) 13.02.90	Queens Park Rangers (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

8	HA Dae-sung	(29) 02.03.85	Beijing Guoan (Chn)
14	HAN Kook-young	(24) 19.04.90	Kashiwa Reysol (Jap)
16	KI Sung-yueng	(25) 24.01.89	Swansea City (Eng)
7	KIM Bo-kyung	(24) 06.10.89	Cardiff City (Eng)
13	KOO Ja-cheol	(25) 27.02.89	Mainz (Ger)
17	LEE Chung-yong	(25) 02.07.88	Bolton Wanderers (Eng)
15	PARK Jong-woo	(25) 10.03.89	Guangzhou R&F (Chn)

FORWARDS

19	JI Dong-won	(23) 28.05.91	Augsburg (Ger)
18	KIM Shin-wook	(26) 14.04.88	Ulsan Hyundai
11	LEE Keun-ho	(29) 11.04.85	Sangju Sangmu
10	PARK Chu-young	(28) 10.07.85	Arsenal (Eng)
9	SON Heung-min	(21) 08.07.92	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)

COACH

HONG Myung-bo	(45) 12.02.69	

(ages as of 12.06.14)

ITALY

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi BUFFON	(36) 28.01.78	Juventus
13	Mattia PERIN	(21) 10.11.92	Genoa
12	Salvatore SIRIGU	(27) 12.01.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

DEFENDERS

7	Ignazio ABATE	(27) 12.11.86	Milan
15	Andrea BARZAGLI	(33) 08.05.81	Juventus
19	Leonardo BONUCCI	(27) 01.05.87	Juventus
3	Giorgio CHIELLINI	(29) 14.08.84	Juventus
4	Matteo DARMIAN	(24) 02.12.89	Torino
2	Mattia DE SCIGLIO	(21) 20.10.92	Milan
20	Gabriel PALETTA	(28) 15.02.86	Parma

MIDFIELDERS

14	Alberto AQUILANI	(29) 07.07.84	Fiorentina
6	Antonio CANDREVA	(27) 28.02.87	Lazio
16	Daniele DE ROSSI	(30) 24.07.83	Roma
8	Claudio MARCHISIO	(28) 19.01.86	Juventus
5	Thiago MOTTA	(31) 28.08.82	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
18	Marco PAROLO	(29) 25.01.85	Parma
21	Andrea PIRLO	(35) 19.05.79	Juventus
23	Marco VERRATTI	(21) 05.11.92	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)

FORWARDS

9	Mario BALOTELLI	(23) 12.08.90	Milan
10	Antonio CASSANO	(31) 12.07.82	Parma
11	Alessio CERCI	(26) 23.07.87	Torino
17	Ciro IMMOBILE	(24) 20.02.90	Torino
22	Lorenzo INSIGNE	(23) 04.06.91	Napoli

COACH

Cesare PRANDELLI	(56) 19.08.57	

IVORY COAST

GOALKEEPERS

1	Boubacar BARRY	(34) 30.12.79	Lokeren (Blg)
16	Sylvain GBOHOUO	(25) 29.10.88	Sewe Sport
23	Sayouba MANDE	(20) 15.06.93	Stabaek (Nor)

DEFENDERS

7	Jean-Daniel AKPA-AKPRO	(21) 11.10.92	Toulouse (Fra)
17	Serge AURIER	(21) 24.12.92	Toulouse (Fra)
22	Sol BAMBA	(29) 13.01.85	Trabzonspor (Tur)
3	Arthur BOKA	(31) 02.04.83	Stuttgart (Ger)
18	Constant DJAKPA	(27) 17.10.86	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
4	Kolo TOURE	(33) 19.03.81	Liverpool (Eng)
2	Ousmane VIERA	(27) 21.12.86	Caykur Rizespor (Tur)
5	Didier ZOKORA	(33) 14.12.80	Trabzonspor (Tur)

MIDFIELDERS

20	Serey DIE	(29) 07.11.84	Basle (Swi)
14	Ismael DIOMANDE	(21) 28.08.92	Saint-Etienne (Fra)
9	Cheick TIOTE	(27) 21.06.86	Newcastle United (Eng)
19	Yaya TOURE	(31) 13.05.83	Manchester City (Eng)

FORWARDS

6	Mathis BOLLY	(23) 14.11.90	Fortuna Dusseldorf (Ger)
12	Wilfried BONY	(25) 10.12.88	Swansea City (Eng)
11	Didier DROGBA	(36) 11.03.78	Galatasaray (Tur)
10	GERVINHO	(27) 27.05.87	Roma (Ita)
15	Max GRADEL	(26) 30.11.87	Saint-Etienne (Fra)
8	Salomon KALOU	(28) 05.08.85	Lille (Fra)
21	Giovanni SIO	(25) 31.03.89	Basle (Swi)
13	Didier YA KONAN	(30) 22.05.84	Hanover (Ger)

COACH

Sabri LAMOUCHI (Fra)	(42) 09.11.71	

JAPAN

GOALKEEPERS

23	Shuichi GONDA	(25) 03.03.89	FC Tokyo
1	Eiji KAWASHIMA	(31) 20.03.83	Standard Liege (Blg)
12	Shusaku NISHIKAWA	(27) 18.06.86	Urawa Red Diamonds

DEFENDERS

19	Masahiko INOHA	(30) 28.08.83	Jubilo Iwata
15	Yasuyuki KONNO	(31) 25.01.83	Gamba Osaka
6	Masato MORISHIGE	(27) 21.05.87	FC Tokyo
5	Yuto NAGATOMO	(27) 12.09.86	Internazionale (Ita)
3	Gotoku SAKAI	(23) 14.03.91	Stuttgart (Ger)
21	Hiroki SAKAI	(24) 12.04.90	Hanover (Ger)
2	Atsuto UCHIDA	(26) 27.03.88	Schalke (Ger)
22	Maya YOSHIDA	(25) 24.08.88	Southampton (Eng)

MIDFIELDERS

14	Toshihiro AOYAMA	(28) 22.02.86	Sanfrecce Hiroshima
7	Yasuhito ENDO	(34) 28.01.80	Gamba Osaka
17	Makoto HASEBE	(30) 18.01.84	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
4	Keisuke HONDA	(27) 13.06.86	Milan (Ita)
10	Shinji KAGAWA	(25) 17.03.89	Manchester United (Eng)
8	Hiroshi KIYOTAKE	(24) 12.11.89	Nuremberg (Ger)
16	Hotaru YAMAGUCHI	(23) 06.10.90	Cerezo Osaka

FORWARDS

11	Yoichiro KAKITANI	(24) 03.01.90	Cerezo Osaka
9	Shinji OKAZAKI	(28) 16.04.86	Mainz (Ger)
13	Yoshito OKUBO	(32) 09.06.82	Kawasaki Frontale
18	Yuya OSAKO	(24) 18.05.90	1860 Munich (Ger)
20	Manabu SAITO	(24) 04.04.90	Yokohama F Marinos

COACH

Alberto ZACCHERONI (Ita)	(61) 01.04.53	

MEXICO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jesus CORONA	(33) 26.01.81	Cruz Azul
13	Guillermo OCHOA	(28) 13.07.85	AC Ajaccio (Fra)
12	Alfredo TALAVERA	(31) 18.09.82	Toluca

DEFENDERS

22	Paul AGUILAR	(28) 06.03.86	America
7	Miguel LAYUN	(25) 25.06.88	America
4	Rafael MARQUEZ	(35) 13.02.79	Leon
15	Hector MORENO	(26) 17.01.88	Espanyol (Spa)
16	Miguel Angel PONCE	(25) 12.04.89	Guadalajara
5	Diego REYES	(21) 19.09.92	Porto (Por)
2	Francisco RODRIGUEZ	(32) 20.10.81	America
3	Carlos SALCIDO	(34) 02.04.80	Guadalajara

MIDFIELDERS

20	Javier AQUINO	(24) 11.02.90	Villarreal (Spa)
17	Isaac BRIZUELA	(23) 28.08.90	Toluca
8	Marco FABIAN	(24) 21.07.89	Cruz Azul
18	Andres GUARDADO	(27) 28.09.86	Valencia (Spa)
6	Hector HERRERA	(24) 19.04.90	Porto (Por)
21	Carlos PENA	(24) 29.03.90	Leon
23	Jose Juan VAZQUEZ	(26) 14.03.88	Leon

FORWARDS

10	Giovani DOS SANTOS	(25) 11.05.89	Villarreal (Spa)
14	Javier HERNANDEZ	(26) 01.06.88	Manchester United (Eng)
9	Raul JIMENEZ	(23) 05.05.91	America
19	Oribe PERALTA	(30) 12.01.84	America
11	Alan PULIDO	(23) 08.03.91	Tigres

COACH

Miguel HERRERA	(46) 18.03.68	

SPAIN

GOALKEEPERS

1	Iker CASILLAS	(33) 20.05.81	Real Madrid
12	David DE GEA	(23) 07.11.90	Manchester United (Eng)
23	Pepe REINA	(31) 31.08.82	Liverpool (Eng)

DEFENDERS

18	Jordi ALBA	(25) 21.03.89	Barcelona
2	Raul ALBIOL	(28) 04.09.85	Napoli (Ita)
22	Cesar AZPILICUETA	(24) 28.08.89	Chelsea (Eng)
5	JUANFRAN	(29) 09.01.85	Atletico Madrid
3	Gerard PIQUE	(27) 02.02.87	Barcelona
15	Sergio RAMOS	(28) 30.03.86	Real Madrid

MIDFIELDERS

14	Xabi ALONSO	(32) 25.11.81	Real Madrid
16	Sergio BUSQUETS	(25) 16.07.88	Barcelona
20	Santi CAZORLA	(29) 13.12.84	Arsenal (Eng)
10	Cesc FABREGAS	(27) 04.05.87	Chelsea (Eng)
6	Andres INIESTA	(30) 11.05.84	Barcelona
17	KOKE	(22) 08.01.92	Atletico Madrid
4	Javi MARTINEZ	(25) 02.09.88	Bayern Munich (Ger)
13	Juan MATA	(26) 28.04.88	Manchester United (Eng)
21	David SILVA	(28) 08.01.86	Manchester City (Eng)
8	XAVI	(34) 25.01.80	Barcelona

FORWARDS

19	Diego COSTA	(25) 07.10.88	Atletico Madrid
11	PEDRO	(26) 28.07.87	Barcelona
9	Fernando TORRES	(30) 20.03.84	Chelsea (Eng)
7	David VILLA	(32) 03.12.81	New York City FC (USA)

COACH

Vicente DEL BOSQUE	(63) 23.12.50	

SWITZERLAND

GOALKEEPERS

1	Diego BENAGLIO	(30) 08.09.83	Wolfsburg (Ger)
21	Roman BURKI	(23) 14.11.90	Grasshoppers
12	Yann SOMMER	(25) 17.12.88	Basle

DEFENDERS

20	Johan DJOUROU	(27) 18.01.987	Hamburg (Ger)
6	Michael LANG	(23) 08.02.91	Grasshoppers
2	Stephan LICHTSTEINER	(30) 16.01.84	Juventus (Ita)
13	Ricardo RODRIGUEZ	(21) 25.08.92	Wolfsburg (Ger)
22	Fabian SCHAR	(22) 20.12.91	Basle
4	Philippe SENDEROS	(29) 14.02.85	Valencia (Spa)
5	Steve VON BERGEN	(31) 10.06.83	Young Boys
3	Reto ZIEGLER	(28) 16.01.86	Juventus (Ita)

MIDFIELDERS

7	Tranquillo BARNETTA	(29) 22.05.85	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
11	Valon BEHRAMI	(29) 19.04.85	Napoli (Ita)
15	Blerim DZEMAILI	(28) 12.04.86	Napoli (Ita)
16	Gelson FERNANDES	(27) 02.09.86	Freiburg (Ger)
8	Gokhan INLER	(29) 27.06.84	Napoli (Ita)
23	Xherdan SHAQIRI	(22) 10.10.91	Bayern Munich (Ger)
14	Valentin STOCKER	(25) 12.04.89	Basle
10	Granit XHAKA	(21) 27.09.92	Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger)

FORWARDS

19	Josip DRMIC	(21) 08.08.92	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
17	Mario GAVRANOVIC	(24) 24.11.89	Zurich
18	Admir MEHMEDI	(23) 16.03.91	Freiburg (Ger)
9	Haris SEFEROVIC	(22) 22.02.92	Real Sociedad (Spa)

COACH

Ottmar HITZFELD (Ger)	(65) 12.01.49	

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS

12	Rodrigo MUNOZ	(32) 22.01.82	Libertad (Par)
1	Fernando MUSLERA	(27) 16.06.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
23	Martin SILVA	(31) 25.03.83	Vasco da Gama (Bra)

DEFENDERS

22	Martin CACERES	(27) 07.04.87	Juventus (Ita)
19	Sebastian COATES	(23) 07.10.90	Liverpool (Eng)
4	Jorge FUCILE	(29) 19.11.84	Porto (Por)
13	Jose Maria GIMENEZ	(19) 20.01.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3	Diego GODIN	(28) 16.02.86	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
2	Diego LUGANO	(33) 02.11.80	West Bromwich Albion (Eng)
16	Maxi PEREIRA	(30) 08.06.84	Benfica (Por)

MIDFIELDERS

17	Egidio AREVALO RIOS	(32) 01.01.82	Morelia (Mex)
5	Walter GARGANO	(29) 23.07.84	Parma (Ita)
20	Alvaro GONZALEZ	(29) 29.10.84	Lazio (Ita)
14	Nicolas LODEIRO	(25) 21.03.89	Corinthians (Bra)
6	Alvaro PEREIRA	(28) 28.11.85	Sao Paulo (Bra)
15	Diego PEREZ	(34) 18.05.80	Bologna (Ita)
18	Gaston RAMIREZ	(23) 02.12.90	Southampton (Eng)
7	Cristian RODRIGUEZ	(28) 30.09.85	Atletico Madrid (Spa)

FORWARDS

21	Edinson CAVANI	(27) 14.02.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
10	Diego FORLAN	(35) 19.05.79	Cerezo Osaka (Jap)
8	Abel HERNANDEZ	(23) 08.08.90	Palermo (Ita)
11	Christian STUANI	(27) 12.10.86	Espanyol (Spa)
9	Luis SUAREZ	(27) 24.01.87	Liverpool (Eng)

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Oscar TABAREZ	(67) 03.03.47	

USA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Brad GUZAN	(29) 09.09.84	Aston Villa (Eng)
1	Tim HOWARD	(35) 06.03.79	Everton (Eng)
22	Nick RIMANDO	(34) 17.06.79	Real Salt Lake

DEFENDERS

7	DaMarcus BEASLEY	(32) 24.05.82	Puebla (Mex)
5	Matt BESLER	(27) 11.02.87	Sporting Kansas City
6	John BROOKS	(21) 28.01.93	Hertha Berlin (Ger)
20	Geoff CAMERON	(28) 11.07.85	Stoke City (Eng)
21	Timothy CHANDLER	(24) 29.03.90	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
3	Omar GONZALEZ	(25) 11.10.88	Los Angeles Galaxy
23	Fabian JOHNSON	(26) 11.12.87	Bor M'gladbach (Ger)
2	DeAndre YEDLIN	(20) 09.07.93	Seattle Sounders

MIDFIELDERS

15	Kyle BECKERMAN	(32) 23.04.82	Real Salt Lake
11	Alejandro BEDOYA	(27) 29.04.87	Nantes (Fra)
4	Michael BRADLEY	(26) 31.07.87	Toronto
14	Brad DAVIS	(32) 08.11.81	Houston Dynamo
10	Mikkel DISKERUD	(23) 02.10.90	Rosenborg (Nor)
16	Julian GREEN	(19) 06.06.95	Bayern Munich (Ger)
13	Jermaine JONES	(32) 03.11.81	Besiktas (Tur)
19	Graham ZUSI	(27) 18.08.86	Sporting Kansas City

FORWARDS

17	Jozy ALTIDORE	(24) 06.11.89	Sunderland (Eng)
8	Clint DEMPSEY	(31) 09.03.83	Seattle Sounders
9	Aron JOHANNSSON	(23) 10.11.90	AZ (Hol)
18	Chris WONDOLOWSKI	(31) 28.01.83	San Jose Earthquakes

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Jurgen KLINSMANN (USA)	(49) 30.07.64	

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